



# QCWA Journal

Quarter Century Wireless Association - Founded in 1947

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One of three working replicas of the Wright brothers engine used to power their 1903 Flyer.

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- **QCWA Worked 500 Members Awards** are issued to QCWA members who have contacted 500 QCWA members.

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# QCWA Journal

Spring 2005 ■ Volume 54, Number 1

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## This month's cover

At the Chapter 9 QCWA dinner held in Dayton, May 2004, the speaker was Terry Hesler and his wife Vickie. Terry owns "Hesler Machine Tools" in Moraine. Terry has built three working replicas of the Wright brothers engine used to power their 1903 Flyer. The cover photo shows one that was used for demonstrations. These engines were not designed to run for long periods of time since they overheat easily. And they run at only two speeds – on and off! Terry Hesler is to the left with wearing the apron. Behind Terry can be seen Bob Roske, Croft Taylor and Ken Oelke. To the right, behind the engine, is Fred Maia.

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### **John DiBlasi, W2FX (SK)**

1947 - 1964

### **Earl R. Thomas, W2MM (SK)**

1965 - 1968

### **Clarence Seid, W2KW (SK)**

1969 - 1971

### **Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK)**

1972 - 1973

### **Frank A. Gunther, W2ALS (SK)**

1974 - 1977

### **Harry S. Gartsman, W6ATC**

1978 - 1981

### **Stuart Meyer, W2GHK (SK)**

1982 - 1985

### **Leland Smith, W5KL (SK)**

1986 - 1989

### **Harry Dannals, W2HD**

1989 - 1994

### **Lew McCoy, W1ICP (SK)**

1994 - 1996

### **John Kelleher, W4ZC (SK)**

1996 - 1998

### **Gary R. Harrison, K0BC**

1998 - 2002

### **Croft Taylor, VE3CT**

2002 - 2004

## Executive Secretary/ General Manager

### **Ralph Barber, W2ZM (SK)**

1955 - 1964

### **Gus Gironda, W2JE (SK)**

1965 - 1973

### **Ethel Smith, K4LMB (SK)**

1974 - 1976

### **Ted Heithecker, W5EJ (SK)**

1976 - 1991

### **Jim Walsh, W7LVN (SK)**

1991 - 2003

## The QCWA Journal

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## From the President

John Johnston, W3BE



On January 31, 1951, our Federal Communications Commission placed into our operating rules a statement of the type of amateur radio service it expects us to provide in return for being allowed to make use of some highly valuable radio spectrum. This statement of basis and purpose did not come from any international body. It is uniquely American. It applies only to the places where the FCC regulates the amateur service. Most countries reportedly consider our amateur service to be but a form of recreation.

The statement survives today in Section 97.1 of our rules. It is important that we pause periodically to reflect upon just whom it is among our fellow members that we admire as our role models in helping to fulfill each of these five principles.

It is fitting that our QCWA honor these members for their efforts. They are our Section 97.1 All-Stars. We are indebted to them for what they are doing and for reminding us of our wonderful privileges in making use of an increasingly valuable public resource.

It is, therefore, an honor to call upon our QCWA Chapters for nominations for QCWA members for our QCWA Section 97.1 Presidential Honor Awards for 2004. Five of these awards will be made on July 1, 2005, and will be announced in our fall 2005 QCWA JOURNAL. For your nominee to be considered, please submit your nomination to Director Harold Chase, W1EES, before June 1, 2005. He is the Chairman

of our Chapter Relations Standing Committee that is administering this program.

Include with the name and call sign of your nominee, the specific award for which you are making your nomination and a statement of your reasons for making your nomination. There are five awards to be presented. They are:

1. QCWA Section 97.1(a) Presidential Honor Award for service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
2. QCWA Section 97.1(b) Presidential Honor Award for continuing and extending the amateur operator's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
3. QCWA Section 97.1 (c) Presidential Honor Award for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the radio arts.
4. QCWA Section 97.1(d) Presidential Honor Award for expanding the existing reservoir within our amateur service of trained operators, technicians and electronic experts.
5. QCWA Section 97.1(e) Presidential Honor Award for continuing and extending the amateur operator's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Here's your opportunity to recognize internationally a deserving QCWA member in your Chapter for helping make amateur radio the greatest hobby in the World. It is our way of thanking them for helping prove conclusively that it is truly in the public interest to allow persons interested in radio technology solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest to make use of highly valuable electromagnetic spectrum for carrying out self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations.

### CHAPTER VISITS

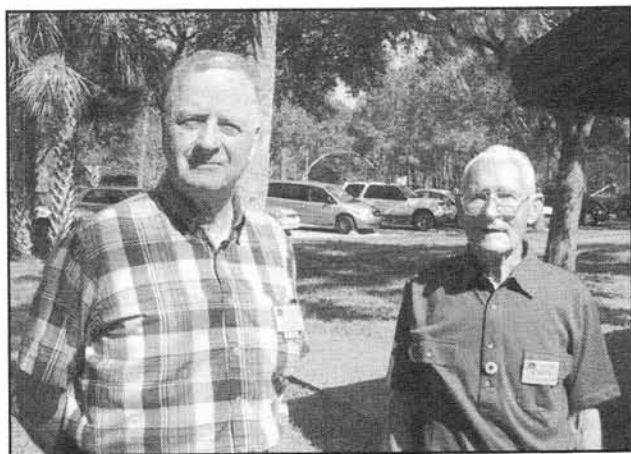
Recent visits with our Chapters include York County (PA) Chapter #165, Vic Clark Chapter #91 (N.VA), Pelican Chapter #128 (St. Petersburg FL – Great picnic! See top photo), Gator Chapter #32 (Largo, FL), and Edison Chapter #196 (Ft. Meyer, FL. See lower photo). Also, our QCWA banner was flying proudly at the Mason-Dixon Hamfest (MD), the FAR Hamfest (MD) and the Winchester (VA) Hamfest.

Now, let's all get on with promoting friendship and cooperation among amateur operators who were licensed at least one quarter of a century ago. Let your Standing Committee Chairs know what's on your mind.

W3BE



**Ft. Meyers Edison Chapter #196 Secretary Jan Sheurman, WA2YL, and President Tad Burik, K3QC, at a recent meeting.**



**Gator Chapter #32 Secretary Bart Bridge, W2YZ0, (l) and Pelican Chapter #128 President Bill Bell, K4AVH at the 2004 picnic in Lake Seminole Park, St Petersburg, FL.**

## Order Your Official QCWA QSL Cards Today!



QCWA QSL cards are USA standard size, printed on a heavy stock which is 'coated' (shiny) on the logo side. Ink is a bright blue with light gray QCWA logo, and you may have your call in either solid letters (above) or shadowed (right). *Be certain you specify the letter style when you order.*

**W2MM**

If you want your county printed, please indicate so on the order blank. Also, tell us whether you want your state spelled out in full or printed with the standard postal abbreviation. Prices listed below include shipping.

Please print very clearly or type your order.

### Order Your QSLs Here

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 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street/PO \_\_\_\_\_  
 County(optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Spell Out ☐ Abbreviate  
 ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ ARRL  
 Province/Country (if non-USA) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 10 - 10 # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Grid Sq. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity: ☐ 100 \$25.00 ☐ 200 \$35.00  
               ☐ 300 \$45.00 ☐ 500 \$60.00  
               ☐ 1000 \$90.00

Complete in full and mail with your check to:  
 QCWA Inc, PO Box 3247 Framingham, MA 01705-3247

## Your Official QCWA Badge



The order blank is printed below. It comes with a standard clip and a bola clip.

**Note that you may order it with a pocket clip at an additional cost**

Bola ties are also available.

### QCWA Badge Order

Call \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate whether you want your City/State or your Chapter name and Number as bottom line on badge.

1. City and State

**OR**

2. Chapter Name and Number

Badge..... \$7.00

Pocket Clip ( \$2.00).....

Bola Ties ( \$2.50).....

Bola tie color(circle one): Black, Blue, Brown, Green, Red and White.

Total Cost.....

Complete in full and mail with your check to:  
 QCWA, 159 East 16th, Eugene, OR 97401-4017





## Spring 2005

My thanks to all the chapter secretaries for your prompt replies. Chapter reports are the only requirement by National for the chapters to maintain their QCWA chapter charters. Important chapter information was received which included Silent Keys (not previously reported) and changes in officers and contact information. Several suggestions were made on format changes for the 2006 report. These will be evaluated and those, which aid the process, will be incorporated.

There seems to be some confusion about the new Internet e-mail reflector that has been established by Bob Roske. Many of you will remember the "Hot Line Report" that was published by the General Manager. Its purpose was to provide a way for the GM to pass information to the chapters. This new reflector is the "21st Century" version of the old HLR. Only chapter secretaries, presidents or designated chapter members will be part of this reflector. It provides the General Manager and officers/directors with a way to quickly pass on information to the chapter at a much lower cost than direct mailing.

After every issue of the Journal, members question the accuracy of their address, usually the city. My question is, "Did you receive your Journal?" Mail delivery does not totally depend upon the city names being present. It is more important to include the correct Zip+four digits in your address. The Zip+four digits are crucial for correct delivery. In some cases, the Journal mailing service truncates the city name. Your addresses stored in the membership database are accurate.

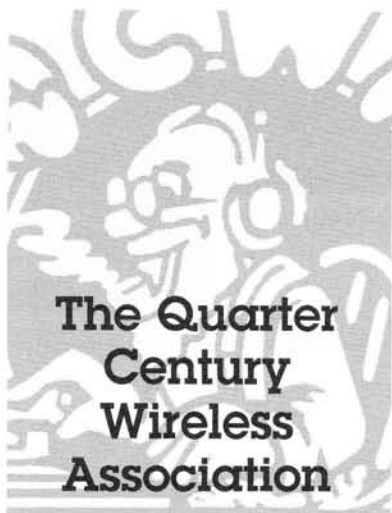
I'm looking forward to attending Dayton again this year, which is scheduled for 20, 21, 22 May, 2005. One issue brought to my attention concerns parking for those arriving in vehicles with ADA parking permits. It is important that you apply for a special permit for Dayton before you arrive. There is a charge for the permit. Check the Dayton Hamvention web page for current information, but apply early!

One of our membership services is providing an audiotape of our Journal to our sight impaired members. Blanche Randles, W4GXZ, is seeking a new volunteer member to read the Journal and record these tapes. Our previous "reader" retired due to health problems. If interested, please contact Blanche directly at the address on the page of Officers/Directors.

Do you have an interesting story about your first rig? Or about your experiences in a technical or non-technical profession? Stories of all kinds are needed and welcomed for inclusion in the Journal. Please contact me to schedule publication of your article. Thanks.

73 To all – if you plan to visit Dayton, be sure and stop at the QCWA booth!

**K1IGD**



**The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.** was founded December 5, 1947, as a non-commercial association of radio amateurs organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment and advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare.

QCWA is an incorporated association without capital stock chartered under the laws of the State of New York, and is a tax exempt 501(C)3 organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Its affairs are governed by a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Board of Directors, whose voting members are elected every two years by the general membership.

In order to qualify for membership in QCWA one must have demonstrable proof of having been first licensed as an Amateur Radio operator at least 25 years prior to application for membership and must be currently licensed. Membership inquiries and general correspondence should be addressed to the business office at P.O. Box 3247, Framingham, MA 01705-3247 U.S.A. Telephone: 508-405-1930 FAX: 508-405-1965



# Volunteers Wanted

## for the 2006 QCWA Board of Directors

**T**he Nominating Committee needs volunteers for the 2006 QCWA Board of Directors. Here is your opportunity to participate in the future of our Association. This slate of candidates will be voted on in the summer of 2006 and assume their duties September 1, 2006.

The requirements for the volunteers are: must be a member in good standing for at least two years, must have email or fax equipment and attend all Board meetings. Some personal travel will be required at your own expense. This is not a paid position, but some expenses involving postage and phone calls can be reimbursed.

We have a limited amount of time to complete the slate of candidates for the election. If you want to volunteer, please send a brief biographical resume to the Committee at the address shown below by June 30, 2005. If you have any questions or want to recommend someone, please feel free to write, email or call.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Gary Harrison, KØBC Chairman  
Lew Gordon, K4VX  
Earle Smith, VE6NM

### **Contact information:**

Gary Harrison, KØBC  
P.O. Box 467  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
Phone 417 777-7777  
Email k0bc@arrrl.net



# 49th Annual QSO Party

## Rules for the 49th Annual QCWA QSO Parties

QCWA cordially invites all to participate in the 2005 QSO parties. All licensed Radio Amateurs world wide are invited.

**Time/Dates:** Two parties will be held in 2005 The first one shall commence on **02 Apr 2005 at 1900 Hrs UTC** and the second one shall commence on **17 Sep 2005 at 1800 Hrs UTC**. Each will run for a **period of 24 Hours**. CW, Phone and Digital modes may be used.

### Frequencies: The following 15 Bands may be used:

<b>1.8:</b> 1.800 - 2.000	<b>14.0:</b> 14.000 - 14.150	<b>28.3:</b> 28.3 - 29.7
<b>3.5:</b> 3.500 - 3.750	<b>14.2:</b> 14.150 - 14.350	<b>50.0:</b> 50.0 - 54.0
<b>3.9:</b> 3.750 - 4.000	<b>21.0:</b> 21.000 - 21.200	<b>144:</b> 144.0 - 148.0
<b>7.0:</b> 7.000 - 7.150	<b>21.2:</b> 21.200 - 21.450	<b>220:</b> 220.0 - 225.0
<b>7.2:</b> 7.150 - 7.300	<b>28.0:</b> 28.000 - 28.300	<b>UHF</b> above 420 Mhz

Any station may be contacted on any or all of the 15 bands for a maximum of 15 QSO's per station, with no more than one QSO per Band. Any station in your home QCWA chapter may be counted only once, for a maximum of one QSO per station. No contacts on WARC bands are permitted (10, 18 and 24 Mhz Bands). No Cross Band or Repeater Contacts are allowed.

### Suggested Starting Frequencies:

<b>CW:</b>	1.810	3.540:	7.035:	14.040:	21.050:	28.050
<b>Phone:</b>	1.845:	3.890:	7.244:	14.262:	21.365:	28.325

**Calling (CW or Phone):** CQ QCWA

**INFORMATION EXCHANGE:** Fill Columns on the Log Form. For the "year" column, indicate the last 2 digits of the year the station operator was first licensed. If the contacted station does not belong to a QCWA chapter, show only the State, Province or Country of its location. The latter would apply to Non QCWA members as well as to QCWA members who are not affiliated with a local chapter. **Do Not mention the term "At Large" (AL) as was done several years ago, as this can be confused with AL for Alabama.** For Band info, simply indicate one of the above 15 Bands in the "band" column.

**MODES:** You may choose to work all modes or Only Phone or Only Digital (which includes CW). Certificates will be issued for each Category. See details in the Spring 2004 Journal in a separate article.

**SCORING:** Each Phone QSO is worth **one contact point**. Each CW QSO or other Digital Mode QSO such as RTTY, PSK31, MFSK etc. is worth **2 contact points** (show 2 points in the QSO Points Column on the Log). **A Multiplier of one point** is given for each QCWA Chapter worked and for each State, Province or Country reported from stations not belonging to a QCWA Chapter. A total of **only one** multiplier point will be given for each State, Province or Country. **A Multiplier of 3 points** will be given on each of the 15 Bands for working our Special Events Station **W2MM**. It is hoped to have this station active throughout the two parties. Stations within 50 miles (80 Kms) of W2MM, may work W2MM only once for a total multiplier of 3 points.

Sample logs and a summary sheet may be requested from QCWA Headquarters with an SASE.

The address is: **QCWA HEADQUARTERS P.O. Box 3247, Framingham, MA 01705-3247**

Contacts with QCWA Memorial Station W2MM count as **three multipliers** on each of the 15 bands. **Note:** W2MM will be operated by one of our local chapters. Members of that chapter, and non-chapter Members within 50 miles (80 kms) will be permitted to work W2MM only once for a total of 3 Multiplier points.

**AWARDS:** Certificates will be issued for the top 3 World Scores in each category. A certificate will also be issued for the top score in each category in each participating country.

**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH** In order to assist the log checker, please include, along with your logs, a Summary Paragraph as shown on page 8.

## QCWA September 2004 QSO Party - Phone

Call	Name	Chapter	QSO's	Multiplier	Tot. Score
K0GND	Reynolds	25	56	26	1456
VE3HKG	Frances	70	19	11	209
HB9RS	Max	209	6	3	18
WQ6CWA	Chuck	213	3	3	9

## QCWA September 2004 QSO Party - Mixed

Call	Name	Chapter	CW QSO's	Phone QSO's	Mixed Pts.	Multiplier	Tot. Score
VE3QCWA	Croft	70	34	57	125	48	6000
K4BAI	John	GA	36	1	73	27	1971
WA5FRF	Steve	38	6	23	35	15	525
HB9MX	Kurt	209	14	2	30	13	390
VE3BNO	George	70	6	11	23	15	345
W6HG	Hugh	130	9	1	19	10	190
N9NBC	Ken	162	6	5	17	7	119
HB9BOU	Herb	209	5	3	13	6	78
VE3XK	Doug	70	4	1	9	4	36
NS30	George	6	3	1	7	4	28

(Digital results are displayed on page 9)

Summary Paragraph : In order to assist the log checker, please include, along with your logs, a summary Paragraph as shown below.

### QSO'S

### CONTACT POINTS

CW Contacts (Digital)	_____ X 2	= _____	
Phone Contacts	_____ X 1	= _____	
Total Contact Points		= _____	(A)
Multipliers		= _____	(B)
Total Score = A x B		= _____	

<b>CATEGORY</b>	CW ( )	PHONE ( )	MIXED ( )
-----------------	--------	-----------	-----------

Send your log along with the above summary paragraph to the following address within 30 days of the QSO Party. All participants are encouraged to send in logs no matter how few or how many contacts you have made.

Send logs to: ARS:W2OD Bob Buus, 8 Donner Street, Holmdel, NJ 07733-2004, USA  
or as an e-mail attachment to w2od@arrl.net



**QCWA September 2004 QSO Party - CW/Digital**

Call	Name	Chapter	QSO's	Multiplier	Tot. Score
N6CMF	Phil	130	80	46	7360
K8FH	Fred	1	48	35	3360
AB2N	Arnold	138	44	33	2904
K9VKY	Brian	6	40	34	2720
W7JBJ	Gil	154	40	30	2400
NQ2F	Scott	NY	31	27	1674
W4YOK	Tom	TX	25	19	950
K6SS	Len	130	23	20	920
AA4MI	Carl	66	18	17	612
K8VFR	Rose	10	16	18	576
W9HR	Al	162	17	16	544
WA8MWA	Carolyn	120	15	17	510
AA9HL	Dave	162	15	15	450
W9GKM	Chuck	162	12	11	264
WA8KAN	Dave	30	10	11	220
W2BZY	Bob	45	11	9	198
W6GV	Bob	213	9	11	198
VE7NI	John	151	9	8	144
W6NKR	Marion	169	6	6	72
W3KH	Buck	6	5	7	70
W00DD	Ed	KS	5	5	50
W5GVP	Tom	71	4	6	48
W6HV	Troy	130	7	3	42
W8KYD	Ron	1	4	4	32
VA3ZBB	Rod	70	4	3	24
W3TZW	Roy	6	1	1	2

## Thank You!

**A special thanks to** Norm, K1AA who made 56 CW contacts as W2MM and Alan, W4ARM who made 200 phone contacts under the Headquarters call. It is disappointing that only 40 logs were turned in from all contacts!

**Congratulations to** chapters 70, 6, 130, and 162 who had 4 or more members on the air. Lets hope we hear more members on the air for April 2-2005.

**A special thanks to** W2OD, Bob Buus who did the log checking for the QSO Party!

George Roach-VE3BNO  
Activities Manager

## 2005 QSO PARTY

Name		Call		Final Score	
Address					
Chapter #	QCWA Membership Number		Mode Entered: (Circle One)      Mixed      Phone      Digital (includes CW)		

[illegible]



# Memorial Scholarship Fund

## NAME

## HONORING

ROBERT ROSKE  
CHAPTER 41  
CHAPTER 183  
SUE ANN PRITCHARD  
QCWA BOD  
CHAPTER 70  
CHAPTER 70  
CHAPTER 134  
RALPH HASSLINGER  
JOHN HUNTOON  
CHAPTER 21  
CHAPTER 79  
CHUCK & JAN WALBRIDGE  
DOROTHY HORNBERGER & FRS  
CHAPTER 138  
CHAPTER 105  
CHAPTER 21  
JAMES BISHOP  
CHAPTER 49  
LELAND SMITH, JR  
CHAPTER 62  
CHAPTER 21

W7LVN  
W7LVN  
W1ALL  
W7LVN  
W7LVN  
CHAPTER 70 SILENT KEYS  
VE3GK  
CHAPTER 134 SILENT KEYS  
W7LVN  
W7LVN  
W8TPS  
W0HWP  
W7LVN  
W1JIO  
CHAPTER'S SILENT KEYS  
QCWA SILENT KEYS  
K8DEN  
KS8P  
K4IKV  
W5KL  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
W8FRB

## AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

**THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC.**, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2005 - 2006 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-two (42) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in **Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin**, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meet-

ings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2005 from:

**FAR Scholarships  
Post Office Box 831  
Riverdale, MD 20738**

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.



# The Rules Say...

# Q&A

John B. Johnston, W3BE, 17701 Bowie Mill Road, Derwood, MD 20855-1608

## Did I Really Matter?

**Q. Did it make any difference that I filed comments in the FCC's ET Docket 03-104 and WT Docket 04-140?**

**A.** Yes, it did. You helped build our FCC's public record in these matters of concern to our amateur service community. We have been very effective in putting our concerns on the record.

Unfortunately, there were also some comments filed that probably detracted from our credibility inadvertently. Here are some suggestions for your future filings:

1. Address only the issues in the Notice.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** The public record in an FCC proceeding is not the place to let off steam about how you feel about taxes, potholes, the War on Terrorists, speed limits, etc.

2. File your comments before the deadline.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Claiming that no one told you what was going on only proves that you are someone who does not know what is going on.

3. Carefully check your spelling and grammar.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** One of our most often misspelled words found in our comments is the word "amateur". It's hard to accept as an expert on our amateur service someone who can't even spell it correctly. A large number of our comments appear to indicate that our writers are overly anxious to demonstrate that they know the word contains the letter "u". So they move it forward a position or two.

4. Do not open your comments with, "I haven't read your proposal, but..."

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Your first five words will have discredited anything further that you had to say. Be sure to read the proposals carefully before commenting on them.

5. Do not restate the FCC proposals incorrectly.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Although this tactic might appear to you as a clever way of moving the discussion to matters other than the actual proposals, it will probably be ineffective.

6. Do not use a hysterical approach. Your readers will likely know that a hysterical person is often not thinking clearly.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** It doesn't add to your credibility to describe how angry you are or to threaten to turn in your license.

7. Do not annoy the FCC mailroom with your QSL card. If it is not important enough for you to take the time to prepare and file a formal comment, use the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System to file an informal comment.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Should our cards arrive in sufficient quantity to delay the distribution of mail throughout the agency, you might succeed only in annoying staff persons whose favorable attention our amateur service might need some day. Employees change positions. Don't create a bad impression of our service for them to carry along as they move to other Bureaus as they climb the career ladder.

**Q. In a remotely controlled station using a computer and the Internet, does the FCC require the operator of the station through which the computer is operating to be present at the station?**

**A.** That would depend upon whether the station licensee decides to designate as the station control operator, the amateur operator at the distant computer (control point). See Section 97.103(b).

Should the station licensee, rather, decide to perform the control operator duties, the person at the distant computer would be a third party. See Section 97.115(b). The control operator must be at the control point. See 97.109(b).

**Q. I have several APRS stations in my house and cars that are on most of the time. What is your take on using them to track things like lead runners in races?**

**A.** There are no special operation provisions for an APRS station in our Part 97. It does not even mention APRS. Your station operation, therefore, must be in compliance with our general station operation standards codified in Subpart B of our Part 97.

As for the use of your station in supporting a race promotion, give it our Section 97.113 review test. Section 97.113 says, in effect, that no station licensee should cause or allow the station to be used for any communications unless "No" can be answered truthfully and com-

pletely to each and every one of the following questions:

1. Is this communication specifically prohibited in Part 97 of the FCC rules?
2. Is this communication for hire?
3. Is this communication for direct material compensation?
4. Is this communication for indirect material compensation?
5. Is this communication for paid material compensation?
6. Is this communication for promised material compensation?
7. Does the station licensee have a pecuniary interest in this communication?
8. Does the control operator have a pecuniary interest in this communication?
9. Is this communication on behalf of the station licensee's employer?
10. Is this communication on behalf of the control operator's employer?
11. Can this communication be reasonably furnished alternatively through another radio service?

**Q. Why are there no special provisions in our rules for APRS?**

**A.** Probably, no special provisions are needed. It is just another one of the many systems that our amateur service community puts together from a collection of our individual amateur stations.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Our FCC regulates our stations, not our systems. This approach works in our favor, as it makes us free to design and implement all sorts of new systems as ideas and technology appear.

We are encouraged to configure and operate our stations depending upon our interests, our resources, our ingenuity and our good judgment. Let's respect this fantastic show of faith in our service. Go all-out to act responsibly so as to keep it that way.

It seems that whenever someone in our amateur service community loses sight of just what is at stake here; those who favor government micro-regulation of our systems come out of the woodwork.

**Q. What's the rule about APRS stations running "unattended?" For example, I'm now at work with my -2 station. I have my -1 station and my -3 station in the driveway at home. My wife could turn them off, but she's not the "control operator" so, they're unattended. Is this legal?**

**A.** Probably not. The very term "unattended" implies that the station is transmitting without a control operator. It is, therefore, totally unsuitable for our amateur service. Section 97.7 says that, as we all must know, when transmitting each amateur station must have a control opera-

tor. Section 97.3(a) (13) says that the control operator is an amateur operator designated by the licensee of a station to be responsible for the transmissions from that station to assure compliance with our FCC Rules.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** You cannot stick your head in the sand to shirk this fundamental responsibility.

There is no authority in our rules for any amateur station to transmit while unattended. Section 97.109 provides only for local control, remote control, and automatic control – all of which require a control operator.

As for the -1 indicator that you apparently append to your call sign in your station's identification announcement, Section 97.119(c) authorizes only an indicator that is separated from the call sign by the slant mark (/) or by any suitable word that denotes the slant mark.

**Q. Can my APRS stations transmit under automatic control?**

**A.** They can if they meet the conditions of Section 97.109(c). It says that only stations specifically designated elsewhere in our Part 97 may be automatically controlled. These are auxiliary stations, Section 97.201(d); beacon stations, Section 97.203(d); repeater stations, Section 97.205(d); and automatically controlled digital stations, Section 97.221(c). Carefully observe the very narrow conditions under which each type of special operation is authorized for automatic control.

**Q. What if I loan my SUV to a neighbor and forget to turn off the APRS rig? He's out four wheeling and my APRS is sending locations. What think you?**

**A.** If he was unaware that he was involved in illegal transmissions, let's hope that our FCC's Enforcement Bureau finds him blameless. You, however, could be found in violation of Section 97.103(a) for failing to carry out properly your responsibilities as the station licensee.

**Q. When my station transmits PSK-31, does it have to ID in CW?**

**A.** No. Although you may make your station identification announcement in CW, under the authority of Section 97.119(b)(1), it is a lot more convenient to make it under the authority of Section 97.119(b)(3): By a RTTY emission using a specified digital code when all or part of the communications are transmitted by a RTTY or data emission.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Just type in your call sign ID announcement on PSK-31 at the appointed time. Some PSK-31 programs have provisions for doing this automatically.



**Q. My neighbor is giving me grief about my station causing TVI to her 100-year old television set. I have supplied her with a TVI filter. What is the FCC policy on such situations?**

**A.** Interference to a consumer electronic device can result from the inability of the device to properly reject the signal from a nearby transmitter. Often, a filter or filters can reduce or eliminate the interference. Our FCC used to offer a handbook that helped resolve such issues – the technical part, at least. It has, apparently, been discontinued.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** You might do well to offer to exchange that 100-year old TV set with a newer model. A 1904 TV set should be valuable to antique collectors!

You went beyond the call of duty to supply the TVI filter. You were wise not to install it. Had you done so, any type of problem from there on would be your fault – in her eyes, at least.

**Q. I was a Technician for 30-years before being automatically upgraded to General. I have only operated 2-meters. How do I go about trying out HF?**

**A.** Our station operation standards in Part 97, Subpart B apply to all bands. Our self-imposed HF band plans, however, are much less rigid than on VHF.

**W3BE-O-GRAM:** Most of the time, 40-meters is my favorite band. If you can hang a 66-foot dipole, you can find action there almost around-the-clock.

Some of our modern transceivers have MF, HF, VHF and even UHF packaged in about the same volume as the VHF-only rigs that you have probably used. With one of the mobile antennas on the market your transition to HF mobile should be a snap.

#### **APPRECIATION**

Our R&R Superham-of-the-Month is our very own Bob Roske, N0UF. At last count, Bob was wearing three hats as our Vice-President, our Webmaster and the Chair of our Publication Standing Committee.

Thank you, Bob, for all of the fine work that you have done for amateur radio. You are at the very top of our list of those fascinating people who make this wonderful hobby happen. ■



*Super-ham-of-the-Month, Vice President, Webmaster and chair of the Publication Standing Committee, Bob Roske, N0UF.*

Send your questions by e-mail to [john@johnston.net](mailto:john@johnston.net).

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# HAM HEALTH

by Dr. Dub George, WA5BFF

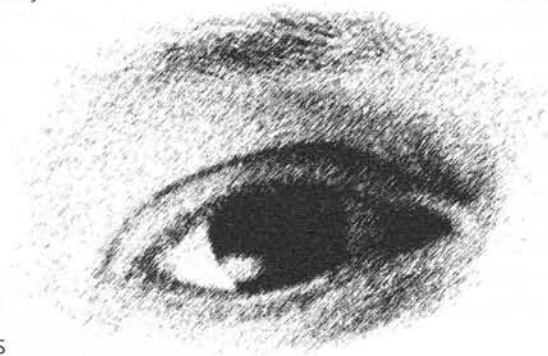
**T**his month I want to talk about some of the vision problems that Amateur Radio operators with a minimum of a quarter century in the hobby may begin to experience Presbyopia. The most common problem is reduced visual acuity due to changes in the lens. Focusing is normally accomplished by changing the shape of the lens from round to elliptical. Shortly after age 40 the lens loses its elasticity and it becomes more difficult to focus on close-up objects. The individual may notice that he or she begins to hold reading material at a greater distance (their arms become too short). This condition, called Presbyopia, is easily corrected with glasses for reading or other close work. If glasses are needed to correct other visual problems such as astigmatism, then the prescription may be for a bifocal or trifocal lens that gives the option of using the different areas of the lens to focus at different distances. Usually the individual quickly adjusts to them.

## Cataracts

With further advancing age the lens may become cloudy. While this clouding is usually attributed to the aging process alone it may also be hastened by injury to the eye, long-term unprotected exposure to sunlight, diabetes, medications such as steroids or genetic inheritance. It is not caused by a "film" over the eye or over-using the eyes nor does it spread from one eye to the other. It should not cause irreversible blindness.

If the clouding is mild or if it does not involve the central area of the lens no treatment is needed. Symptoms of significant clouding include a painless blurring of vision, glare or light sensitivity, frequent eyeglass prescription changes, double vision in one eye, needing brighter light to read, loss of depth perception, poor night vision and fading or yellowing of colors.

Cataract surgery needs be considered when there is enough reduction of vision to interfere with important activities of daily living. Cataracts may develop quite slowly and therefore there is really no need to rush to have the procedure done. There is also no need to wait for a cataract to "ripen" or mature before it can be removed.



The surgical treatment has improved greatly over the past two decades. The "old" surgical treatment consisted of removal of the lens and then fitting the patient with thick "cataract lenses". The recovery period consisted of several days of absolute bed rest followed by several weeks of reduced activities.

Modern cataract surgery is an outpatient procedure. A local anesthetic coupled with mild sedation makes the operation virtually painless. Using an operating microscope an incision only 1/6 inch in length is made in the cornea and the tip of a small ultra-sonic probe is inserted into the central part of the lens. Ultra-sonic energy is used to break up the lens. The fragments are removed by suction, leaving the back (posterior) membrane of the lens to support the plastic intraocular lens (IOL) implant. The IOL is inserted in a folded state and the small incision is closed with a single stitch.

Frequently no stitch is needed. This has led to the procedure being known to as the "one stitch" or "no stitch" cataract operation.

After a short stay in the outpatient recovery area the patient is ready to have someone drive him or her home. During the recovery period eye drops will be prescribed and the patient must be careful not to rub or press the eye. An eye shield is worn during sleep. Although strenuous activities should be avoided until the eye has healed, normal daily activities and moderate exercise may be resumed at once. Vision is usually improved immediately; however, full improvement comes when corrective lenses are fitted in approximately six weeks.

Even though the surgery itself is successful the patient may not see as well as he or she would like. Other problems with the eye such as macular degeneration (aging of the retina), glaucoma or diabetic damage may still limit vision after the surgery. Even with such problems present the improvement in vision gained by surgery may be worthwhile.

**73 de Dr. Dub George, WA5BFF**

*Reprinted from the Summer 1994 issue of the QCWA Journal.*



# CHAPTER REPORTS

*Chapter Reports are a very important part of the Journal and we would like to see regular reports from all chapters. If your chapter is not represented on these pages, please ask your secretary to file a special report for the Journal. Please send the reports to Chuck Walbridge, General Manager, to arrive no later than the following dates: January 1 for Spring, April 1 for Summer, July 1 for Fall and October 1 for Winter.*

## Chapter 1, Cleveland (OH)

William Montague, Director of the Cleveland VA Medical Center, was the guest speaker at QCWA Chapter One's January meeting. The Center is home of Amateur Radio station W8LYD, staffed by Chapter One volunteers.

The Medical Center treats some 86,000 veteran patients a year, has a staff of 3,000, including physicians associated with Case Western Reserve University. The Center's annual operating budget is \$365 million.

Mr. Montague said that the hospital treats honorably discharged veterans. Its medical departments include surgery, cardiac care, rehabilitation, psychiatry, dialysis and nursing. New programs providing blind and post-stroke rehabilitation are being developed.

There are 14 VA medical sites in Northeast Ohio, including Akron, Mansfield, Youngstown and Lorain in addition to Cleveland. He noted that peer reviews ranked a high percentage of these facilities as 'Centers of Excellence.'

Speaking of the importance of communications, Montague said that he had been through many disasters and learned that "the only thing that works is radio."

Referring to radio hams, he called them "the court of last resort." He drew a hearty response when he said, "So give yourselves a big hand."

We welcome the following new members of Cleveland Chapter One: Doug Emerson, K8NFF; Ted Huddle, W4CID; Les Peine, K8LP; Vance Roth, KA8YHZ; and Bruce Thorne, KE8TI.

With sadness we report the following silent keys: John Brant, W8WAB, and John Pristash, WR8G.

**D.E. "Dee" Logan, WIHEO, editor**

## Chapter 2, Chicago (IL)

President Jim Quinn, K9JQ, opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. There were 11 members and 11 guests in attendance. During the wait for the meal, Jim Quinn, K9JQ welcomed the members, their guests and the non-members.

The first order of business was to have the attendees stand up and introduce themselves to the group. Then Jim introduced the speaker for the later program, Ed Webb, W9IPO. Ed has been a member of Chapter 2 for many, many years as well as a past officer and past member of the board.

Jim announced that an election is coming up. The terms of Officers and Directors: Paul Crum, W9LC, Al Mazure, W9LOB, and Phil Herman, NW9J are due to expire at the end of 2004. Paul Crum has indicated that he can no longer serve as Director because of his health.

Lee made a motion to nominate the incumbents. Jim then opened the floor for other nomination. There were none. So Jim announced that the election would be at the next meeting, January 25, 2005.

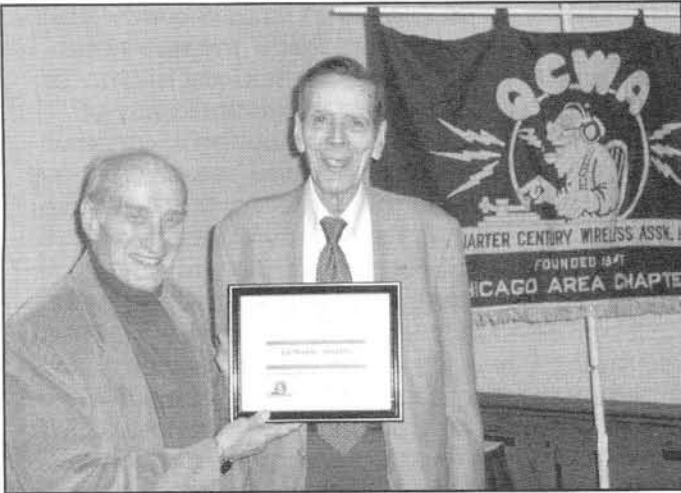
Jim then asked for Secretary's report. Gil stated



**Ed Webb, W9IPO, and Wife Frances.**

that things were quiet in the Secretary dept. He then described the problem with the National Journal. The editor, Gerry Wentz, KC4EHT, died suddenly. The national organization is attempting to recover the Journal files so someone can continue to produce the Journal. This occurred as the new General Manager was in the process of trying to get his office in order, having recently received the





*Jim Quinn, K9JQ, awarding Certificate of Appreciation to Ed Webb, W9IPO for his fine program.*

National files, records and office. In the process, our Chapter Reports were lost. I resent them but they can't fit them in the Fall Journal. I am assured that both Chapter reports will be in the Winter issue due out in January.

Then dinner was served. The restaurant served its usual fine meal. Attendees had a choice of London broil, scrod or chicken lamon. But it also includes salad (outstanding and all you can eat), soup, rolls, and dessert.

The program after dinner was given by Ed Webb, W9IPO and assisted by his lovely wife Frances. Ed described how he got started with the Pacific Garden Mission and how it grew. Until, at this time, he is totally dedicated to the Mission.

The Pacific Garden Mission is a service to the "street people", of Chicago by providing meals, housing and guidance to the people who have nothing else.

Ed started when he had his own recording studio and service. He provided the recording facilities for the program which became the program "Unshackled". Unshackled is now distributed to 1470 radio stations throughout the world weekly and relates the story of how people have altered their lives by turning to the support of God and Jesus Christ.

Ed was responsible for the establishment of the "in-house" facility to record the program and oversee the final production of the cd's to be sent to the 1470 radio stations.

Ed went into detail in the selection of the studio equipment, the reasons for the choice of each piece of equipment.

Finally Ed described the research into each story to insure its accuracy. Frances' assistance in the production of the program was also detailed. Then Ed played a sample of a program so we could see the professionalism of the production and the use of music. Ed also handed out the cd for all to take

home and play and listen to the "rest of the story",.

Ed and Frances have devoted their lives to this Mission. They are to be commended for this fine service to humanity.

**Gil Kowols, W9BUB, Secretary**

### **Chapter 5. Delaware Valley (NJ)**

The Delaware Valley Chapter 5 held the winter meeting luncheon on December 4, 2004 at the Town & Country Restaurant in Bordentown, NJ. Chairman Mike Ruggiero, W2NVR, called the meeting to order at noontime and welcomed all. The minutes of the September meeting were read by the secretary and approved while the waitress was taking the orders. The Treasurer, Marv Foral, W3QGC, was not present but submitted his report through the secretary and it was accepted. The Chairman gave a report on the survey that had been mailed to the members, and expressed his appreciation to the surprising number that had responded. A special award was made to Gordon Gunzelman, KC2ISY, for his many helpful contributions to the Chapter and to his fellow hams. A certificate making him an associate member of the Chapter and a new ARRL handbook was presented to him.

The speaker for the meeting was Bob Buus, W2OD, a member of Chapter 5 but whose primary membership is to Chapter 138 where he is editor of the Chapter 138 Bulletin, a very nice publication. Bob spoke on "RF Radiation and Your Health". His talk was very informative not to just the hams present, but also to the XYL's since he covered microwave ovens, cellphones, as well as the ham radio equipment that is in common use. He explained the SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) of the human body and why it is necessary to be aware



*Chairman Mike Ruggiero, W2NVR, and Bob Buus, W2OD, the speaker for the December meeting.*

of RF radiation from various sources. He went over the FCC regulations that relate to ham antennas and what each ham has to certify that he has checked his equipment and it meets all requirements when his license is renewed. The audience asked a number of questions and Bob made apparent that he is well informed about the subject. He had prepared a booklet that further gave helpful information on the subject and a copy was made available to all present. His talk was well received.

**Don Field, W2UAE, Secretary**

### **Chapter 10, Michigan (MI)**

As Michigan Chapter 10 brings their 45th year to a close, we can reflect back on a very active and prosperous year. Our membership has grown to 92 members, an increase of 19 new members from the previous year. We would like to extend a sincere welcome to the following new members of Chapter 10: Jim Hamilton, WA8KDP, Maple Rapids, MI., Robert Hansen, K8RWD, Cadillac, MI., John Kroll, K8LJG, Flint, MI., Jim Monaghan, N8GNQ, Ypsilanti, MI., Wayne Huhta, W8GXB, Goshen, IN., John Fleming, K8UP, Oak Park, MI., Colleen Alexander, WD8JRI, Sumner, MI., Russ Anderson, N8EEA, Livonia, MI., Dale Fifer, KA8CBU, Cadillac, MI., Paul Herrmann, K8BHT, South Lyon, MI., Karl Roersma, W8KGR, Cedar Springs, MI., John Benthall, N8CCK, Burton, MI., Rick Mark, WZ8N, Manistee, MI., Jack Goff, W6RTO, Bay City, MI., David DeRain, K8ESQ, Walled Lake, MI., John Burleson, KA8ARF, Davison, MI., "Mac" McLaughlin, N8TT, Lennon, MI., Joseph Turner, K8CQF, Saginaw, MI., and Mary Anne Kane, KD8AOS, Ypsilanti, MI.. The addition of these new members was made possible by the concerted efforts of our general membership, who actively recruited these new members. We would suggest that all chapters in QCWA encourage their members to actively attempt to recruit at least one new member each year. This is the only way that we will be able to keep QCWA "alive and well".

We extend our congratulations to all the new National Officers, as a result of the 2004 election, and thank all of those outgoing officers for their services as well. There are many important issues confronting QCWA and we need to express our support to this new slate of officers.

QCWA is a very "unique" organization. When one stops to think about it, joining QCWA happens during the "twilight years" of our hobby. Many members are very close to retirement age when they join, and find as the years go by, that many wonderful friendships have been made. We all share the same concerns about the "last years" of being a ham, and share our memories with each other. We

tend to lean on each other in times of sorrow and need, finding comfort from fellow members and their families. QCWA is more than just a "club" or "coffee clutch", it is more of a "special family of friends", sharing the wonderful hobby of amateur radio, and now we find ourselves "reaping the benefits" of many wonderful friendships that we have made in QCWA over the years. When silent keys take place with one of our members, we all share in the loss, extending condolences, offering help and prayers to their families, and then we continue on, urging others to join our fine organization, so that they too may share in this very special "old timers" organization. Some ask, "what does QCWA have for me?". We can answer that question to some extent, but there are some things that cannot be put into words, that one receives from their friends in QCWA. Our organization will be exactly what we want it to be. We will get out of it what we put into it, nothing less and most assuredly something more.

The year of 2004 has had some very sad moments as well. We wish to take time to reverently remember the following Chapter 10 silent key members: Donald Holloway, WB8EYM, Kalkaska, MI., Willard Hibbard, K8AXV, Battle Creek, MI., Marion J. Stoner, W8VWY, Frankfort, MI., "Bill" Moberly, KS8P, Grandville, MI., and from our National Headquarters Staff: Jim Walsh, W7LVN, Eugene, OR., and our former beloved QCWA Journal Editor & Publisher, Gerry Wentz, KC4EHT, Melbourne, FL., Rest in peace, dear friends.

As I write this article in late December of 2004, and knowing that by the time it is published and received by the membership, it will be spring and the grass will be growing, flowers abounding everywhere, snows will be gone and we will all be looking forward to the "hazy, lazy, days of summer! We trust that you all had a wonderful holiday season and as the Memorial Holiday weekend approaches, we wish to convey our thoughts and prayers for all of our past "Silent Keys", loved ones, and for all those who made the "ultimate sacrifice" to defend and make our great Country what it is today. Let us also remember those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces of our Country, and pray for their safe return.

The Michigan Chapter 10, Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers, will be held on Saturday, May 07, 2005, at the Waterfront Restaurant in Cadillac, Michigan, starting at 12:00 noon. This meeting is held in conjunction with the Wexauke Amateur Radio Club's Swap and Shop, which is being held on the same day, at the Cadillac Junior High School, from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. There will be a QCWA table located just inside the main entrance, where information about becoming a member of QCWA will be available,

along with several chapter 10 members, who will be happy to assist you with your application and answer any questions that you may have. Please check your April, 2005 issue of QST, for details of this swap and shop, or contact Brian Polk, KC8TXT, 13826 Serenity Dr., Marion, MI., 49665.

The next event following the annual meeting will be our Annual Summer Picnic, which will be held at the Kenwood Park, in Cadillac, MI., on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, starting at 12:00 noon. There will be a short business meeting prior to the picnic.

Details of all chapter events are given by the chapter Secretary at the beginning of our regular SSB net, which is held every Sunday morning, with a pre net beginning at 7:30 A.M., followed by the regular net at 8:00 A.M., on 3.903 Mhz. We encourage all duly licensed amateurs to join us on our net. You need not be a member of QCWA or Chapter 10 to join us on our net, and many of our members became a member of QCWA and chapter 10 by doing just that, (another good idea for recruiting members).

Plans are still being made to establish a Chapter 10 web site. We plan to have member biographies and photos, calendar of events, chapter history, stories of interest written by members, and recruiting information. It is our hope that this will generate additional interest by our own membership, and become an effective tool for recruiting new members as well.

I would like to commend QCWA General Manager, Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD, and his fine staff on the outstanding job they have done over the past few months despite some very "difficult situations". With the untimely passing of two of the Headquarters' staff, Jim Walsh, and Gerry Wentz, Chuck and the Board of QCWA have done an outstanding job in dealing with the transitions that were mandated during those times. I think that all members need to realize that we have a Board of Directors, and QCWA Staff that is second to none. They have been put to the test many times over in the past year and have kept us "on track". We at Chapter 10 salute you for a job well done and look forward to working with you to keep QCWA the fine organization that it is.

A special thank you goes out to Doug Walbridge, "Temporary Editor", for his timely response to a most difficult assignment. Be careful Doug, in QCWA the word, "temporary", usually means "permanent", you just do not know that yet, hihi! Thank you again for a job well done.

Until the summer 2005 issue, take care, drive carefully, and the very best of DX and 73's from all of us here in Michigan Chapter 10.

**James F. Bishop, W8JFB, Secretary/Treasurer**

## **Chapter 19, Missouri (MO)**

Missouri Chapter 19 continues to meet the second Saturday of each month for lunch and fellowship. We try to have a presentation or video at every other meeting.

On Saturday, December 4, a group from our chapter took a tour of the newly constructed Tunnel under the new runway of Lambert International Airport. This is the first tunnel in the state of Missouri. We all saw the very high-tech inner workings of this very sophisticated tunnel. The below picture was taken at the south entry to the tunnel.

Our chapter will once again be manning a booth at the upcoming Winterfest Hamfest on January 24. Information on QCWA will be passed out. We have been very successful at this annual hamfest recruiting new members for QCWA and our local chapter.

Our chapter also participates in a weekly net. The net control is Ken Scott, W9VHL. This net meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm on two meters at 147.150 Mhz. If you are visiting the St. Louis area, please check in.

Respectfully submitted,

**John Germanos, WB9PNU, Secretary/Treasurer**

## **Chapter 20, Baltimore (MD)**

Thanks to our VP Les Jamison, WR3X, our Secretary-Treasurer Russ Smith, K3APM, and our Coordinator Bruce Carpenter, W3YVV, thirty-two members and guests (photo) enjoyed our annual Holiday Party at the Crab Shanty in Ellicott City, MD, on December 5. Our 2004 QCWA Meritorious Award to recognize outstanding service went to Russ Smith, K3APM. Otto Claus, W3LZZ, took home the top door prize of an ICOM T2H Sport 2-meter transceiver.



*Missouri Chapter 19 at the South entry to the first tunnel in Missouri.*



## Chapter Reports

Join us any Monday noon, except Federal holidays, for lunch at Cactus Willies Steak Buffet and Bakery, 7315 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, MD. It is directly across from the Empire Towers. Your XYL is invited any Monday, but especially on the first Monday of each month.

**John B. Johnston, W3BE, President, Chapter President**

### Chapter 21, Canton, (OH)

The regular quarterly meeting of QCWA, Chapter 21, Canton, Ohio, was held on November 20, 2004, following lunch at the Top of the Viaduct, Massillon, Ohio. President Perry Ballinger, W8AU, presided for a business meeting. There were 19 members and guests present.

The business of the meeting was election of officers. Kay McCune, W8LNK, became President, moving up from Vice-President. After some names were suggested and rejections were received,



*Russ Smith, K3APM (I), accepts our QCWA 2004 QCWA Meritorious Award from Chapter President W3BE, John Johnston.*

Nelson Caley, W8EAR, volunteered to be Vice-President for the third time, and Joe Vignos, W1FEZ, volunteered to be a director for two years as well as being editor. David Glass, W8UKQ, was retained as secretary-treasurer. Mel Vye, W8MV, is a director for one more year.

Chapter 21 has been hit hard this year by Silent Keys. Earlier we have reported that Ed Gammeter, W8CSU, and Myrhl Lemley, W8MND, were SK. Since our last report we have to add these calls to the SK list: Ralph Schoener, W8TPS, Ray Scoville, K8DEN, and David Polen, W8FRB.

Ralph W. Schoener, Sr. W8TPS, QCWA #3226, passed away in Coshocton, Ohio, on October 10, 2004. At the age of 90, he was the last surviving

charter member of Chapter 21. He was first licensed in 1929, and had received the QCWA 75 year award earlier this year. Ralph was a retired assistant superintendent at the former Republic Steel Corp. with 37 years of service.

Raymond Scoville, Jr., K8DEN, died November 11, 2004 at the age of 60. He was QCWA #26303, first licensed in 1961, and joined QCWA in 1993. Ray was retired from the Postal Service in Alliance, Ohio, after 35 years service. He was a DXer.

David W. Polen, W8FRB, became a Silent Key on November 29, 2004. He was QCWA #8941 and the oldest active member of Chapter 21. He was first licensed in 1944 when only an operator's license was issued. David had received the QCWA 50 year and Century Club certificates. He retired in 1982 from the Ohio China Wholesale Co.

We send our condolences to each of the families. For each Silent Key, Chapter 21 sends a donation to the QCWA Memorial Scholarship Fund.



*The new 2005-2006 Board members: (L-R) Joseph Vignos, Sr. W1FEZ, director and editor; David Glass, W8UKQ, secretary-treasurer; Nelson Caley, W8EAR, vice president for third term; Kay McCune, W8LNK, president. Digital photo by Ed Clinger, WA8DRT.*



*Chapter 21 at the Massillon, Ohio, Hamfest, October 31, 2004: (L-R) Ed Clinger, WA8DRT, director; Joseph Vignos, Sr. W1FEZ, Editor. Digital photo by Ed Clinger, WA8DRT.*

You may view the Chapter 21 web page at [www.cmh.net/qcwa/](http://www.cmh.net/qcwa/)

**David Glass, W8UKQ, Secretary**

### **Chapter 30, West Virginia (WV)**

Chapter 30 is alive and well. Our spring gathering is planned for May 20 at the Steer Steakhouse off I-79 exit 99 at Weston, WV. The gathering will be a Dutch treat noon luncheon with a formal meeting to start about 1 PM. The winter and late spring storms should be behind us by that time so make plans to attend.

It will be time for our chapter to hold an election of officers this fall. A nominating committee will be put together at the May meeting and election at our fall gathering. If you are interested in serving as one of our officers or have someone you would like to nominate, please let Art, W8PBO, or I know your desire.

Members of the chapter who will be receiving 50-year certificates this year include John, W8WEJ, Stan, W8PRM, and Arnold, W8WVM. If you were licensed in 1955 or earlier and have not received a 50-year certificate, please let me know and I will make the proper arrangements.

Don't forget we are in the midst of the hamfest season. We will have another meeting at the West Virginia State Radio convention in August. We had a very large turnout last year and look forward to another one this year. Look for our chapter banner in the flea market and stop by to say hello. Better yet, bring a friend and sign them up. If your QSL is not in the display of the chapter members, be sure to bring one along to one of our gatherings and add it to the collection or send it to me and I will add it for you.

**David Mays, W8UI, Secretary**



*A gathering of the members of Chapter 30, West Virginia.*

### **Chapter 32, Clearwater, & Chapter 128, Pelican Chapter (FL)**

Seminole Lake Park was the site of the Annual Pelican-Gator Big Bird Picnic on November 10. This event draws not only members from both chapters, but often visitors from other chapters.

Approximately 32 members and guests were present. Joe Swingle brought Alice King, 3D2AK, as his guest. This year we were pleased to welcome QCWA President, W3BE, John Johnston and his wife, Betty. John gave a brief review of the National Convention in Ottawa and stated that it was one of the better ones. Alan Pickering, KJ9N, who is a member of both the Gator and Pelican Chapters, concurred.

The Pelican chapter has a tradition of honoring silent key members. A spouse or family member or friend attaches the silent key's QCWA pin to the chapter banner. At this meeting, while Ned Harbert, K4CNB, and Bill Bell, K4AVH, held the banner, Juliette Bloechle attached a pin honoring her husband Harry, K4WP. Ralph Luedke, K9MOR, spoke about his friend Harry and reminisced about their times together.

The prize drawings are a highlight of the picnic. Bill Bell, K4AVH, and his wife, Gerry, furnished the many prizes; Gerry had made many of them and Bill probably was cleaning out his shack. The main prize, a new Autek SWR power meter, was won by John Johnston, W3BE. Entertainment for the day was provided during the drawings for three \$5 prizes. Nancy Chandler, wife of Ed, W4NEO, (the Pelican Chapter treasurer), won the first \$5 prize. The second drawn was also won by Nancy who returned the prize to the club. Ed won the third \$5 prize making it quite a family affair.

The Pelican Chapter had a short business meeting



*Ned Harbert, K4CNB, and Bill Bell, K4AVH, hold the QCWA banner while Juliette Bloechle attaches a pin honoring her late husband Harry, K4WP.*

*(continued on page 24)*

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# Standing Committees as of October 20, 2004

	Committee Functions	Committee Membership
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Investments</li> <li>• Prepare &amp; Monitor Budget Expenses</li> <li>• Review dues structure</li> <li>• Scholarship Program</li> <li>• Monitor Financial Advisor's Performance</li> <li>• Endowment Fund Oversight</li> </ul>	Chairman, Lew Gordon, K4VX Vice Chair, Tom Atkins, VE3CDM Jerrel Jones, W5TUU Tony Hirsch, W8RSH Roger Volk, K0GOB Treasurer Frank Harris, WA4PAM* Croft Taylor, VE3CT* General Mgr. Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD* Scholarship Ch., Buddy Smith, W5YE*
<b>Chapter Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter Awards, HQ Awards</li> <li>• Membership Growth</li> <li>• Recruiting Guidelines</li> <li>• Chapter Guidelines</li> <li>• Conventions</li> <li>• Operating Activities</li> <li>• Hamfest Coordination</li> <li>• Member Supplies</li> </ul>	Chairman, Harold Chase, W1EES Vice Chair, Blanche Randles, W4GXZ Jan Scheurman, WA4YL Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC General Mgr. Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD* Bob Roske, N0UF* George Roach, VE3BNO* Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO* Ken Oelke, VE6AFO*
<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain various QCWA Documents (Constitution, By-Laws, Directors Guide, Membership Lists, Web Page)</li> <li>• QCWA History</li> <li>• NEMSO Contract</li> </ul>	Chairman, Ed Yoder, W3YMB Vice Chair, Blanche Randles, W4GXZ Harrison Moore, W2JQS Bill McGrannahan, N0ZL General Mgr. Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD* Croft Taylor, VE3CT* Bob Roske, N0UF (Webmaster)* Historian (Vacant)*
<b>External Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Relations with other Amateur Radio Organizations (ARRL, CRL etc.)</li> <li>• Monitor Regulatory Bodies Proceedings and reply as necessary</li> <li>• Scholarship Program</li> <li>• Operating Activities and Awards</li> </ul>	Chairman, Len Nathanson, W8RC Vice Chair, Tom Atkins, VE3CDM Tad Burik, K3QC Secretary, Alan Pickering, KJ9N* General Mgr. Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD* Scholarship Ch., Buddy Smith, W4YE*
<b>Publications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the quality and content of the Journal</li> <li>• Develop other sources of Advertising and Revenue</li> <li>• Taping Program Oversight</li> <li>• Web Page content</li> <li>• Barter Advertising Oversight</li> </ul>	Chairman, Bob Roske, N0UF Vice Chair, Croft Taylor, VE3CT Jerrel Jones, W5TUU Ray Minichiello, W1BC Fred Maia, W5YI General Mgr., Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD* Bob Roske, N0UF (Webmaster)* Blanche Randles, W4GXZ*

\*Advisors to committees

**NOTES: The President and Vice President are Members ex-officio of all above committees. The following is the contact information for non-board members:**

- Tad Burik, K3QC, 239-649-5599 <wa8pxl@juno.com>
- Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC, 703-359-9211 <howardc@macrolc.com>
- Tony Hirsch, W8RSH, 614-880-4466 <thirsch@ameritech.net>
- Fred Maia, W5YI, 817-795-9594 <fmaia@texas.net>
- Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, 262-639-7327 <wa9jmo@wi.net>

- Bill McGrannahn, N0ZL, 816-561-0730 <hamster@kc.rr.com>
- Ray Minichiello, W1BC, 603-472-9746 <pcusimd@cs.com>
- Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, 403-277-0507 <ve6afo@3web.net>
- George Roach, VE3BNO, 613-234-0885 <groach@igs.net>
- Jan Scheurman, WA2YL, 239-560-8495 <ylham@earthlink.net>
- Buddy Smith, W4YE, 540-721-4684 <w4ye@aol.com>

## Chapter Reports

at which Ken Johnson, WA4TOP, listed the nominees for the next years offices. Since there were no other nominees the slate was adopted unanimously as follows:

Directors: Bill Bell, K4AVH; Jarvie Mullins, WA4GJH; Alan Pickering, KJ9N

President: Bill Bell, K4AVH

Secretary: Walt Supina, N3WS

Treasurer: Ed Chandler, W4NEO

Club Call Trustee: Ralph Luedke, K9MOR

The Gator Chapter meets at noon on the first Saturday of each month in the Clearwater Area at the Stacey's Buffet in the Midway Shopping Center at 1451 Missouri Avenue. The Pelican Chapter meets at noon on the second Wednesday of each month at Po Folks Restaurant, 2001 34th St. North, St. Petersburg.

**Walt Supina, N3WS, Secretary, Pelican Chapter**

### Chapter 41, Dallas (TX)

Several chapter members were treated to a tour of one of the oldest municipal-owned radio stations in the country, WRR, by its Chief Engineer and chapter member John King, K5CDV. The station came into being in a round-about way when Henry "Dad" Garrett, Dallas's first automobile dealer filling orders for Locomobile, National Electric, and Oldsmobile and a prodigious inventor, began a new career as superintendent of the Dallas Police and Fire Signal System. In 1920, he assured his place in Dallas's history by installing a 50-watt radio transmitter at the central fire station with the call letters WRR.

The equipment's principal purpose was to transmit alarms to the other fire stations as well as the portable radio receiver that Garrett carried in his car. Being a music lover, Garrett soon found another use for the city's new equipment. Between fire alarms, for the benefit of any crystal radio set owners who might be listening, he connected the transmitter to a phonograph and played his collection of classical recordings. (the same type of music that WRR has broadcast for over 80 years).

By 1921, the station had a regular daily schedule. Every evening at 7:00 pm police bulletins, baseball scores, and a weather forecast were aired followed at about 8:30 pm by a classical music concert.

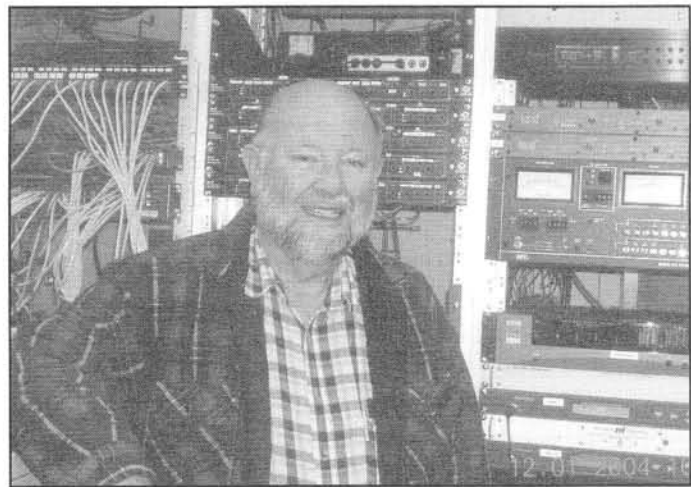
In 1948, Garrett retired from the Dallas Fire Department after more than 40 years of service and having founded a unique classical music station whose crystal-clear fidelity is not only heard locally but across the nation via the internet.

Interestingly, but not surprisingly, that original 50-watt transmitter was a converted amateur radio station.

**Bob Olney, N5NT, Recording Secretary**



Front row (l-r) Barney Moffatt, W5CJZ; Bob Olney, N5NT; Steve Cumming, WRR-FM, Announcer; Back row (l-r) Mont O'Leary, K0YCN; Bob Jones, W5SYU.



Chapter 41 member John King, K5CDV, is the long-time Chief Engineer of radio station WRR-FM in Dallas. Founded in 1920, WRR is one of the oldest commercial radio stations in the United States.

### Chapter 45, Citrus (FL)

The Orlando HamCation in February is beginning to occupy our attention. This hamfest is put on by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC), but as a number of Chapter 45 members are also members of OARC, we have a role in the venture. Chapter 45 will occupy the same booth as last year, a very advantageous location. We look forward to the normal activities of a hamfest plus the opportunity to present QCWA to anyone that stops by. If you attend the HamCation be sure to stop by the QCWA booth near the Prize booth for an "eyeball".

During the past year, Chapter 45 has held quarterly informal lunches on a Sunday. A number of our members are still in the work force and cannot take the opportunity to attend our regular monthly luncheon meeting. We have met in several differ-

ent restaurants which, for one reason or another, did not suit our purpose. On December 5th we tried another, the Buttermilk Restaurant in Maitland, and found that it suited our needs very well. The menu and the food were excellent and served very efficiently.

Election of officers is at the Chapter annual meeting in December. The terms of the President, Al LaPater, W2AS, and the Treasurer, Morton Cohen, WA2ARS, were finished. The nominating committee was unable to find new candidates for these positions and the incumbents were elected for another two-year term.

Chapter 45's regular meeting is on the third Wednesday of each month. Members and guests begin to gather at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, 1840 E. Colonial Drive in Orlando about 11:30 AM for lunch and a time of fellowship. The formal meeting begins about 12:30 PM. Any ham that is in the area is welcome to a time of good fellowship. The Chapter operates an open repeater, W4PLA, on 147.195mhz, net at 1930 local time every Tuesday.

**Paul A. Turner, W1DLP, Secretary**

### **Chapter 49, Peach State (GA)**

The October 2, 2004 picnic meeting was at the home of VP, Jerry, W3CDE, and Annie Lofstead in Snellville where several of the members enjoyed themselves with the fine food and companionship. The December 4, 2004 annual Christmas meeting and gift swap was held at Fire Mountain Restaurant in Norcross where 12 members, 2 'Friends' and 3 spouses gathered to enjoy the beginning of the Holiday season. Several members had sent notes to President, Mike, K4HBI, with their regrets for being unable to attend. We welcomed our newest member, Morris Johnson, KB4IT, of Griffin at his first meeting. We also celebrated member, W4OHA, Bobby Canup's 74th birthday. After the fine meal, Santa's helper, K4SZ, handed out the gifts to one and all. All present, who owed dues, brought themselves up to date.

The Chapter 49 meeting schedule for 2005 has been set. Saturdays, February 19, April 9, June 18, August 27, October 22, and December 10 were chosen as our bimonthly meeting dates missing important hamfest and contest dates. The name of our meeting place restaurant changed last year from Ryans to Fire Mountain but it is the same building and location at 7045 Jimmy Carter Blvd. in Norcross. 12 Noon to eat and meeting to begin at 1PM. One of the dates will be the annual picnic meeting and the location will be announced in the newsletter. All Chapter 49 Newsletters are on our web page [www.mindspring.com/~w4gbu/qcwa.htm](http://www.mindspring.com/~w4gbu/qcwa.htm)

It is with sadness that we report the October 2004 passing of our member, Tom Falls, K4IKV, of Sharpsburg, GA. A donation was sent to the scholarship fund in his memory.

Chapter 49 is pleased to note that we had eight new members in 2004: John Benka, KF6JG; Dave Burrows, W9JWT (ex WB7CQK); Mark Fehlig WA6NGC; Dave Adanich, K8WDJ; Randal DePriest, N4AC; Gary Greene, WA4TOL; Morris Johnson, KB4IT; and most recently, Ron Rogers, WW8RR. Welcome to them all.

**Bob Lear K4SZ, Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor**

### **Chapter 51, Tex-La Golden Triangle (TX)**

During the 4th Quarter of 2004 our chapter continued to meet at noon on second Saturdays at Larry's French Market with 25 to 32 members and guests enjoying good Cajun food and fellowship.

At the November meeting Fred Goenne, WA5QAQ, shared his second hobby with us. For several years he has been building an experimental two-passenger airplane. He demonstrated several riveting techniques that could be useful in home-brewing ham gear.

Our Officers for 2005 will be:  
Bill Terrell, K5EGV, President  
Fred Goenne, WA5QAQ, Vice-President  
Dee Dikes, WA5BEU, Sec/Treasurer  
Dub George, W5DUB

**Dee Dikes, WA5BEU, Secretary/Treasurer**

### **Chapter 53, Suncoast (FL)**

Our October 6th luncheon meeting kicked off the 2004-2005 "season" and we enjoyed the companionship of 20 chapter members and guests. President Jack Sproat, W4JS, reported receiving a nice phone call from Chapter President Emeritus, Frank Lester, W4AMJ, and that Frank and Sally are getting settled into their new residence. Frank is QCWA Charter Member #13, and we are most proud to have him as a member of our chapter. In lieu of a specific program, members were asked to offer comments and discuss topics that could be of interest to our group. Bob Avrutik, N1RA, displayed the type of standardized connectors he's using for all his 12-volt equipment. Bob also told of losing some \$3000 in equipment at his summer home due to a power surge. Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB, and Bill Schlapfer, KA2HEA, both reported on their respec-



tive trips to Europe during the summer. Martin Horowitz, W4MHH, reported on his participation in emergency communications during Hurricane Charley. Al Alviani, N4LML, offered brief remarks on his trip to Alaska, and Jack, W4JS, gave some highlights of certain experiences during his trip to Missouri and Kansas for trail riding.

There were 24 chapter members and guests at our November 3rd luncheon meeting. Chapter Secretary, Ginnie Menerick, W8MEJ, was presented with her 50-Year certificate and pin. A "show and tell" was offered by several members, with items ranging from QSL cards having personal significance to a 1967 Heathkit catalog being displayed, along with some explanations of why these items had special meaning to the owners.

On December 1st, 2004, 23 chapter members and friends were on hand for some good food and fellowship. The annual election of officers was held, with the Secretary casting one vote to retain the incumbent officers. Assisted by Hans Napfel, WB2ZZB; Jack, W4JS, showed a video he had made which integrated on-site scenes from several John Wayne/John Ford films with the sights and sounds he and Yuli had observed during their 2003 visit and trail ride in Monument Valley, Utah.

Suncoast Chapter 53 has a luncheon meeting the first Wednesday of every month—October through May—11:30 AM at Denny's, 3701 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL. All QCWA members living in, or visiting, the Florida Suncoast area are always welcome. Contact the undersigned at w4js@juno.com for further details.

**Jack Sproat, W4JS, President**

### **Chapter 55, Wisconsin (WI)**

The fall meeting of Chapter 55 was held at noon October 2, 2004 at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Waukesha, WI. Verne Teske, W9RYA, started the meeting with greetings and a prayer for all souls, deserving and undeserving alike. The 'family-style' meal was immediately followed by Dave Boede, K9DJB's audio-visual program presentation about the Surveying and Mapping of Wisconsin, a narrative that included a brief history of how Wisconsin first became a territory, then to become the 30th state, happening during a time when land surveyors were establishing the permanent internal boundaries of Wisconsin with respect to surrounding states and territories. Dave told of great Indian migrations that also took place during this period of dramatic change. He closed his very interesting and enlightening presentation with Q&A and a demonstration of very early land surveying instruments.

After a short break, Verne moved the meeting to

election for Chapter 55 Board of Directors. Verne announced his retirement from position as Chairman as well as from the board of directors. Nominations for the board were received from members present, the ballots marked, collected and counted with result that Bettie Norbury, K9GJC, was elected and all incumbent directors who chose to run were re-elected. The newly elected BOD then retired to a separate location to elect chapter officers. Ron Yokes/W9BCK, elected chairman, and Bettie Norbury/K9GJC, elected secretary, re-elected were Dave Parker/WB9WHG, vice-chairman, and Theodore (Ted) Stiller/WA9RDI, treasurer. Duane Haas/W9BCV, remains as NCS coordinator and Gary Pedersen/KA9BAE, remains as historian. Newly-elected chairman, Ron Yokes, saluted Verne Teske for his long service as chapter chairman, crediting Verne with keeping the group intact through difficult times. Ron also congratulated board members and officers for their election/re-election and thanked them on behalf of the membership for their continuing service to the chapter. Bettie Norbury, K9GJC, was welcomed aboard as incoming secretary. Since the meeting was running long and members were getting a bit antsy, Ron deferred some issues regarding possible By-Laws changes to reflect the reduced size of chapter membership, for BOD consideration. Old business, none. New business produced a gift to the chapter by Charles Dawson, W9CUW, consisting of a very compact Motorola - Darcom 9000, 900 mHz repeater systems, Model F26848. He informed the group that it qualified for Ham use under Part 97.90 in the freq. Range 902-928mHz. He suggested we could auction it off or sell it at a swap-fest with proceeds to the chapter treasury. Thanks given to Charles for his generous gift.

Meeting adjourned with best wishes to all until spring meet next June 4, 2005 and reminder to join our Sunday net at 8:30 AM for continual update on Chapter 55 activities.

**Ron Yokes for Bettie Norbury - Secretary**

### **Chapter 64, El Paso (TX)**

In the West Texas town of El Paso, made famous by Mexican explores, cowboy gun fighters and Marty Robins lives El Paso Area Chapter #64. This year we celebrated our 31st anniversaries as an active Chapter but mourned the loss of Charter Chapter Member Tex Burdick, W5BQU. At the age of 103, Tex was the oldest active Amateur Radio Operator in America. His logbook listed his last contact was with KB3IFH on 27 January 2004. Tex became a Silent Key 30 May 2004 four months short of his 104th Birthday.

The Chapter continues to grow with the addition

of two new members to our ranks of 30 active members. Fifty-year QCWA Operating Certificates were awarded last year to John Dunsmore, W5DTP, and Dean Figgins, WA7EPU. We are looking forward to awarding a 75 year certificate to Taft Nicholson, W5ANB, and a 50 year award to "Tiger" Nietmann, WB5MRB, this year.

An election of chapter officers with expiring terms was held in the fall of last year. The Nominating Committee counted all returned ballots received by the Chapter Secretary. Elected to the office of Chapter Vice-President was Robert Rogers, K5HRI; to the office of Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Manuel R. Gonzalez, W2BFI, and to the office of Chapter Directors Robert Smith, K5VRF, and Earl Wood, WA5YRP. All newly-elected officers will serve for a period of two years. Installation was during the Chapter Annual Meeting 18 December 2004.

The club station W5RO is heard on 80 meters every Statuary morning on 3933 KHz at 8:30 AM local time. NCS is rotated among those members with 80 meter capabilities. Out of town and non-members are always welcome.

An aggressive new member recruiting program is in the planning stage for this year. Visitors are always welcome at our monthly meeting at Buck's Bar-B-Que on the third Saturday of each month at 12 noon. Talk-in frequency is on the highest amateur repeater in the state of Texas, 146.28/88 (no PL, were are friendly).

**Manuel R Gonzalez, W2BFI, Chapter Secretary**

### **Chapter 67, Austin (TX)**

The Austin Chapter finished the year with membership up and attendance up. The Chapter met monthly at Ryan's Restaurant in North Austin during the final quarter of 2004. President, Milt Cram, W8NUE, gave an excellent program on PSK and other digital modes at the October meeting. Milt discussed the theory behind these digital modes, how they are actually used on-the-air, and a future project that he is working on for a PSK generator board. There were 16 attendees at that meeting.

The November meeting included a report by Secretary Keith Zimmermann, K5WX, on the code practice sessions that have been held weekly on Wednesday nights on a local repeater. A nominations committee was formed with Vice President Bil Henson, WB5SYS, chairing that group. Treasurer, Roger Wines, W5WIA, reported his activities in teaching a new Technician Class license class.

The Austin Chapter's December meeting included an excellent report from Jerry Jackson, N5UJ, on his activities helping to establish an amateur radio station at LBJ High School in Austin. Pete Jordahl,



*President Milt Cram, W8NUE, (center) gives a program on PSK at the October meeting of the Austin Chapter.*

K5GM, donated a tower to this Big Project. Smokey Wiley, K5RDJ, and others have donated tools. Mr. Ronnie Risinger, KC5EES, a teacher at that school, has been working with Jerry and Pete and other local hams and the ARRL headquarters staff concerning his plans for establishing a first-class amateur radio program at that high school. We're proud to have members of Chapter 67 helping in this Big Project.

**Keith Zimmermann, K5WX, Chapter Secretary**

### **Chapter 70, National Capital, Canada**

At our annual dinner general meeting held on November 16 at the Carlingwood Family Restaurant, we had 37 members and 2 guests in attendance. Jim Dean, VE3IQ, our past President, presented a slate of officers for 2005. Our new executive for Chapter 70 will be for President: Joe Parkinson, VE3JG; Past President: Jim Dean, VE3IQ; Vice President: Gus Holtz, VE3VK; Secretary: Clare Fowler, VE3NPC; Treasurer: Dave Parks, VE3AV; and for Directors: Doug Leach, VE3XK; Ernie Brown, VA3OEB; and Margaret Heaslip, VE3EQE. Keith Bedal, VE3GFI, will continue on as our web master.

Have you ever thought about what happens to all of the used and obsolete computer and other electronic equipment? Will Brown from Computer Recyclers gave us a very interesting but disturbing answer. For years we have been promoting the three R's - reduce, reuse and recycle. For electronic scrap this just has not happened. According to an Environment Canada report in 2002 there were 341,000,000 pounds of electronic and computer equipment that became obsolete in Canada. Of this amount, 308,000,000 pounds or 90% went into landfill. In the 308,000,000 pounds were 10,450,000 pounds of lead. The same study estimated by 2005 that 10,000 pounds of cadmium



*Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, (left) being congratulated by CH70 director Doug Leach, VE3XK, on receiving his 55-year pin and certificate.*

and 4,400 pounds of mercury would end up in landfill from electronic scrap. It is an increasing problem as the average life cycle of a computer is about 18 months. For various reasons it is not economical to refurbish or reuse computers. New computers are so cheap. According to a video Will played, the answer is not to export the scrap to China where there are no environmental or safety standards. There some 100,000 people making a living recovering the metals. In the process, however polluting the air, land and water, and shortening their life inhaling toxic fumes. While an international convention has banned the shipping and exporting of hazardous waste it is not being adhered to. Electronic waste can be processed by grinding it up to a fine powder, and separating the metals by a smelting process where the emissions are controlled. As the cost of the recovery process does not completely pay for itself the solution is to include the cost of recycling in the original cost of computer and electronic equipment. If we are concerned with the kind of world that we are leaving to our grandchildren and future generations we should be prepared to pay a little extra.

**Clare Fowler, VE3NPC, Secretary**

### **Chapter 73, Fred Hammond, Canada**

Our Fall Meeting was held on Saturday, 2 October 2004, at The Plainsman Restaurant. President Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, introduced several new members, Bob Barton, VE3FVF; Paul Kovac, VE3HFM; Pierre Mainville, VA3PM; and Bill McHugh, VE3NH. Tom also noted that Norm Weedmark, VE3NFW, became a silent key at age 82.

George Roach, VE3BNO, Chairman of this year's QCWA Convention, gave us a current status report and encouraged us to visit Ottawa.

Mary Card advised us that 5 scholarship recipients had been chosen, funded by generous donations from the estate of the late Eric Enns, VE3BB, and the Hammond Manufacturing Company.

Our speaker was Fergus Kyle, VE3LVO, who gave us a fascinating and humorous illustrated talk about his project of building a real airplane. In addition to the pictures, Ferg brought several pieces of the aircraft. Midway through his presentation, the lights went out! The restaurant staff rushed around with candles for all of the tables, and we carried on mostly in the dark. Fortunately there was



*Harold Braun, VE3DWH, had no trouble finding the buffet tables.*



*From left to right, Fergus Kyle, VE3LVO; Mary Card, VE3FEB; and new member, Paul Kovac, VE3HFM.*



a big flashlight on the prize table, so we were able to illuminate the airplane parts as Ferg talked about them.

Since the buffet lunch was cooked with gas, we didn't have to eat cold food. Some of us had to eat by candle light (no champagne), as illustrated in the photo.

By the time lunch was over, the power was back on, Fergus was able to show us the rest of his pictures, and we were able to see the prize table.

Visit our chapter web site, <http://qcwa.ca>  
Our next meeting will be Saturday, 7 May 2005

**Keith Bentley, VE3DHL**

### **Chapter 81, Long Island (NY)**

Summer vacations are over and we will all get down to business and enjoy the number one hobby. We had a very successful field trip to the Airport Museum that is located at the old Republic Aircraft airport. Republic was well known for designing and producing many fighter aircraft for World War II, Vietnam and its last vehicle the F110 now operational in IRAQ.

The museum trip provided us with revisiting with some old friends of World War II, notably the massive B29 Bomber, the sleek B24 and several war painted fighters. The museum people not only permitted us to go into the aircraft but also presented us the opportunity to fly in them (for a nominal fee). Some of us rested our weary feet by sitting in a C47 (the old Gooney Bird). Throughout the museum there was an extensive display of memorabilia and a movie showing some of the fighter action.

Upon conclusion of our tour we all gathered at a very well endowed Chinese restaurant that is very close to the museum. We thoroughly enjoyed the extensive buffet. Needless to say the camaraderie was at a high level.

We are now in the planning stage for our next trip. It will be to the Pioneer Telephone Museum located in Commack. The museum features many of the old experiments of Alexander Graham Bell as well as many original phones and equipment that was used in his laboratory. The development of the telephones to today's wonders are displayed.

On January 9th of 2005, once again we will take part in the Ham Radio University. We will have a table and material to give to potential members.

**Martin Miller, NN2C, President**

### **Chapter 91, Vic Clark (VA)**

Our Annual Awards Luncheon was held at Neighbor's Restaurant in July. President John



*Chapter 81, left to right: Treasurer, Hugo Lander, W2IGH; Director, Ed Pecan, W8ZRVG; President, Martin Miller, NN2C; Vice President, Herman Milatz, W2LTC; Secretary, Howard Liebman, W2QUV. Congratulations to our officers for 2004-2005*

Reiser, WQ4L, presented the following awards:

- 70 years since first licensed: Bill Getchell, W1HRE; Elmer Jones, K4EUX
- 55 years since first licensed: Dick Rucker, KM4ML
- 50 years since first licensed: Ray Albers, K2HYD; Ben Baddley, W4FQT; Jim Harper, W4HJH; Pete Hurd, N1SS; Dick Maylott, W2YE; Jim Richey, AG4MA
- Continuously licensed for at least 50 years: Jack Hammett, K4VV; Bill Getchell, W1HRE; Jim Harper, W4HJH; Dick Maylott, W2YE; Jim Richey, AG4MA

Our program was on emergency operations. John Reiser showed off the two go-kits he keeps fresh and near the door in case of an emergency. Then, chapter member Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC, who is also the Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) serving Fairfax County and neighboring communities talked about the events and lessons learned during Hurricane Isabel and a drill conducted in May involving a simulated airliner crash at Dulles International Airport (IAD).

At our August meeting, we were treated to a double-header: Ben Gelb, KF4KJQ, did a show-and-tell on a successful balloon flight conducted in July by the Vienna Wireless Association (VWS). Ben originally conceived of the balloon launch as a high school project, but found that it was members of the VWS who had the interest and resources needed to pull it off.

Then Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, briefed on the recent activities of ARRL's team in Washington, DC, to protect and enhance the presence of amateur radio

*(continued on page 31)*



# **QCWA 2005** **21-28 August 2005** **Alaskan Cruise Convention**

visit: [www.qsltravels.org](http://www.qsltravels.org) for updated and latest information

Questions about onboard activities, the Fox Island DX-pedition, and anything else can be directed to me:

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, 5400 Six Mile Road, Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9741, USA  
telephone: (262) 639-7327, **FAX:** (262) 639-3320, and/or **email:** [wa9jmo@wi.net](mailto:wa9jmo@wi.net)



## *DX-Pedition to Fox Island NA-197*

Please join our DX-Pedition to Fox Island. It is 12 Miles from Seward, located in Resurrection Bay, Alaska. We will be operating on Fox Island as IOTA NA-197 and classified as a rare IOTA contact. Only 10.1% of IOTA members have confirmed NA-197. Using the IC-756 PRO-II's provided by ICOM of America, we will set up and test the equipment on Wednesday, August 17, 2005. Then run the DX-Pedition straight through until tear down on Saturday morning, August 20, 2005. We expect to secure boat service between the island and Seward all day long. This will allow for short operating visits for those not wanting to spend their evening on the island. See our website for many of the options for this event:



between the island and Seward all day long. This will allow for short operating visits for those not wanting to spend their evening on the island. See our website for many of the options for this event:

[www.qsltravels.org](http://www.qsltravels.org)

ICOM

DX-Pedition information contact: [k9dq@qsltravels.org](mailto:k9dq@qsltravels.org)

# **ENJOY YOUR TRIP!**

operations in the radio spectrum both nationally and internationally.

For more on this story, go to our website at: [homepage.mac.com/rucker/chapter91.html](http://homepage.mac.com/rucker/chapter91.html)



Left to right: Ray Albers, K2HYD; Jim Harper, W4HJH; Dick Maylott, W2YE; Jim Richey, AG4MA.

and then scroll down to "Archived Events" and click on the link for the July meeting.

For more on any of the stories summarized below, go to our website and then scroll down to "Recent Events" and click on the link for the meeting you're interested in.

Our October meeting featured Kim Elliott, KD9XB, speaking on "The Media of International Broadcasting." Kim was the host of the Voice of America's radio program "Communications World" and currently does audience research for VoA.

The media include: re-broadcasting programs from stations local to their intended audiences, broadcasts from Earth satellites, using the Internet to reach intended audiences, and the use of new direct radio technology, such as Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), to reach intended audiences.

On the last day of October, the annual Marine Corps Marathon was run, and local hams provided the communications support. Among those were Vic Clark chapter members Ray Albers, K2HYD; Rick Bunn, N4ASX; Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC; and Dick Rucker, KM4ML.

In November, at the suggestion of member Steve Floyd, W4YHD, our speaker was Ed Kennedy, K3NS, a key player in the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP). Its mission is to study the effects of the ionosphere on radio wave propagation and systems that depend upon them. Steve is HAARP's transmitter expert.

Ed mostly talked about the high-powered phased array they've built to tickle the ionosphere. Towards the end of his presentation, Ed asked: "How many 4CX10,000 tubes will be required to support the array?" The winning answer "720" came from



Ben Gelb, KF4KJQ, did a show-and-tell on a successful balloon flight conducted in July by the Vienna Wireless Association (VWS).

Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC, who remembered that each transmitter had two tubes, each antenna tower required two transmitters, and was able to do the multiplication required in his head quicker than the rest of us. As can be seen in the photo, Ed (on the left) rewarded Howard with an official HAARP ball cap.

Question for you: "What's the power rating of one of those tubes in kilowatts?"

Our annual Holiday Luncheon was held again this year at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna, VA. All the ladies present received gifts, while the members, male or female, competed in a drawing held by Santa to give away four new ICOM transceivers. The lucky winners were: Bill Scholtz, W3HXF; Lee Garlock, KD4RE; Ray Johnson, K5RJ; Bud Caron, WA3TNQ. Answer: 10 KW.

Chris Imlay, W3KD, General Counsel for the ARRL, was our after-dinner source of wisdom and entertainment. Chris noted that as a young communications



Ed Kennedy (left), K3NS rewarded Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC with an official HAARP ball cap.





*Chris Imlay, W3KD, General Counsel for the ARRL, was our after-dinner source of wisdom and entertainment.*

lawyer for the ARRL around 25 years ago, his mentors were his boss, Bob Booth, W3PS; at the FCC, John Johnston, W3BE; and the very special Vic Clark, W4KFC, then President of the ARRL. For what Chris had to say about Vic Clark, Broadband over Power Line (BPL), and the spectrum held by the Amateur Radio Service at 70 cm and down, go to our website.

Here's a teaser from his treatment of BPL: "So the die was cast because the FCC was told by the Bush administration to make this happen. As we were told by someone within the FCC: 'The chairman [Michael Powell] out-drove his headlights on this one.'"

**Dick Rucker, KM4ML, Secretary**

### **Chapter 102, Dakota (ND/SD)**

Since winter is here activities have slowed down somewhat. Dan, W0NBX, and Frank, NU0F, were part of VE test team, who administered tests on November 13, 2004 at the SD School of Mines in Rapid City, SD. Dan also completed the ARRL Amateur Radio Communication Course. He highly recommended it to any one interested or who participates in volunteer radio communication efforts. Tom, N10I, in Sioux Falls, SD has kept busy; twice a week he is the Net Control for the SD Section noon NJQ and evening NEO Traffic Nets. He was also part of the Sioux Falls VE test team who gave tests in the EMS building in Sioux Falls. If that isn't enough he also is a regular check-in to various CW and adjacent states traffic nets.

Chapter 102 Vice President Bill, K0UB, is also the President of the Theodore Roosevelt ARC in Dickinson, ND to which some of our chapter members belong. He said their club sent a check to the United Way in Florida, for the White Doves project to help the needy children who lost their homes and possessions, for toys and food. The club is get-

ting ready for their Technician classes to start in January. The local college is going to let the club use their interactive TV system, at 6 different schools, if they can get enough people interested in the class. This will save people from driving to Dickinson for class; they can participate from their local schools by TV.

Scott, WA0VKC, hosted a local Cub Scout group for the annual Jamboree on the Air. Thirty-five Scouts and Scout leader attended the event. The Scouts made use of the operating position at the Black Hill ARC clubhouse in Rapid City, SD. The highlight of the event was a QSO with an amateur from the hometown of Philo T. Farnsworth, the inventor of television.

Chapter members Frank, NU0F; Dan, W0NBX; and Scott, WA0VKC, were part of the group of local hams who participated in the Skywarn Recognition Day sponsored by the Rapid City office of the National Weather Service. Portable ham equipment was set up in NWS office. Roland, W0YMB traveled from Mobridge, SD to Aberdeen, SD to help at their Weather Service Office during this event. We also wish to thank Roger, K0ROG, for all his efforts in coordinating the chapter's plans to have a QCWA information table and luncheon at the SD Section Convention to be held on April 16th, 2005 in Sioux Falls, SD.

**Frank Shaw, NU0F, President**

### **Chapter 109, Baton Rouge (LA)**

The third quarter Acadiana luncheon meeting of Chapter 109 was held at Landry's Seafood Restaurant in Henderson, LA, on October 2, 2004. Approximately 20 members and guests attended. Presiding over the distribution of door prizes was President Wayne Gordon, K5EOA. A kitchen clock was presented as the ladies prize and a new-fangled LED flashlight was presented to the winning gentleman. The group enjoyed a technical discussion concerning a variety of topics between courses of fresh Louisiana seafood presented Cajun style.

The fourth quarter luncheon meeting of Chapter 109 was held at Brunet's Restaurant in Baton Rouge on December 4, 2004. Approximately 25 members and guests attended. A considerable number of the members present paid chapter dues and some bought chapter patches as it was pointed out that a previously approved increase was scheduled to occur in January. Virgie Aubin, N5JXV, was a special guest at this meeting. She thanked several of the members present who came to her aid recently when a construction crew that was putting a new roof on her garage inadvertently brought down her antenna. A quick trip to a local military surplus store for some parachute cord along with a minor

amount of swamp engineering skill solved the problem and restored communications. A floral candle arrangement was awarded as the winning ladies door prize. Due to popular request by the membership, the gentleman's door prize awarded at this meeting was another LED flashlight. This item seems to be so popular with the membership that many inquired about where they could obtain one. The group meted out justice to Bob Brunet's menu as the catfish courtbouillon was excellent.

**Doc, AC5IA, Secretary/Treasurer**

### **Chapter 110, Kansas (KS)**

Chapter 110 QCWA held their fall meeting and dinner November 13, 2004 at Coyote Canyon Steak and Buffet on South 9th, in Salina, Kansas.

After the meal Pres. Wilson WØTQ called the meeting to order and a round of introductions; 31 members and guests were present. Sec/Tres gave a short report. Then WØTQ asked the Election Committee to take over, and they had asked old officers if they would take their office again and all accepted for another year. WØTQ, Pres.; WØFCL VP.; and WØME, Sec/Tres.

It was reported that Marc, WØRBO, had fallen and broke a bone but that he was back home and moving slow. After a short discussion it was decided Les, WAØGRM, would plan the spring meeting some time in March 2005, and he would find the place and get back to Sec. so he could send out a meeting notice and announce it on 3.920mhz on the Saturday morning at 7:30 local time. Meeting adjourned so all could go shopping.

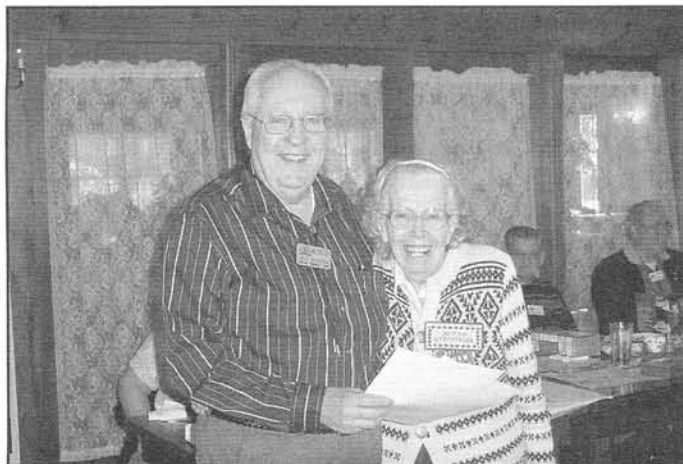
**Alvin Wiechman, WØME, Sec/Tres**

### **Chapter 128, (see Chapter 32 Joint Meeting)**

### **Chapter 146, Twin State (NH)**

Chapter 146 – the Twin State Chapter is alive and well. We had our annual Holiday Party meeting on November 14th, 2004 at the Indian Shutters Restaurant in Charlestown, NH with 30 members and guests attending. Our Chapter was honored by attendance from two other New England Chapters, Yankee Chapter and Pioneer Chapter. We were also honored with the presence of our National General Manager, Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD, and his lovely wife Jan. We had our annual "Yankee Swap". A good time was had by all!

As with most chapters, we experience low attendance, and discussion followed on this matter. It was suggested that we have a local 2-meter meeting on Thursday evenings at 8PM on 146.76 Mt. Ascutney Repeater.



**General Manager Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD presents Betty Stephenson with 50-year continuous amateur certificate.**



**Twin State members (l to r) Dick Stevens, W1QWJ; Blanchard Pratt, W1RFP; Carl Breuning, N1CB; and Cheryl Breuning, WA1WEY.**

We also had several members who received their 50-year continuous amateur certificate presented to them by our National General Manager, Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD. Congratulations to them!

The Chapter's Sunday morning net has moved to 3.912 Mhz at 8:30 AM. We moved to have a clear channel and so far, this has been a good move for us. Come and join us on Sundays.

**Cheryl Breuning, WA1WEY, Secretary**

### **Chapter 151, Wild Rose, Alberta**

Greetings from the Wild Rose Chapter in Calgary Alberta Canada. As the new Secretary of Chapter 151 it is my pleasure to report on QCWA activities in this area. We had a luncheon with the annual general meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion #264 on September 25, 2004. Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, described how the Chestermere Lake Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Youth Education Program is progressing. The Grade Six science teacher Brian Jackson, VE6JBJ has brought amateur radio (VHF, UHF&IRLP) to the classroom using our donated dual bander and antenna but still has to pass the code to add HF contacts. The program was an interesting

video presentation on the 3B9C DX Expedition on Rodriguez Island.

The first meeting of the planning committee for the QCWA National Convention was held at Devry Institute on October 7, 2004. The Convention hotel will be the PORT O'CALL Inn, Calgary. The Inn is across the street from the Calgary Aero Space Museum. There will be Friday and Saturday evening buffets, tours of interesting areas, a hospitality suite and seminars. A logo has been designed and lapel pins are now available.

**Jack Ambler, VE6CAQ, Secretary**

### **Chapter 154, Leo Meyerson, Greater Palm Springs (FL)**

Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, our chapter namesake, arrived December 3 at the Palm Springs airport for his extended winter stay. As you can see from the photo, Leo was greeted by several of his many local admirers. We all anticipate Leo's participation in our many winter chapter activities.

The "UP Front in QST" (January issue, page 20) has an article titled "A 1931 'State of the Art' 1931 Transmitter." John Aiton, W6HAG, built this transmitter when he was first licensed at age sixteen. We are proud of John for preserving this bit of amateur radio history. He is a charter member of Chapter 154. John brought the transmitter to our January luncheon and autographed the article for members.

At the November luncheon, the chapter reelected the current officers for another term: Gene Pentecost, W4IMT, President; Emil Oana, K6LGI, Vice President; and Bill Dews, K6AWO, Secretary/Treasurer.

**Gene Pentecost, W4IMT, President**

### **Chapter 165, York County (PA)**

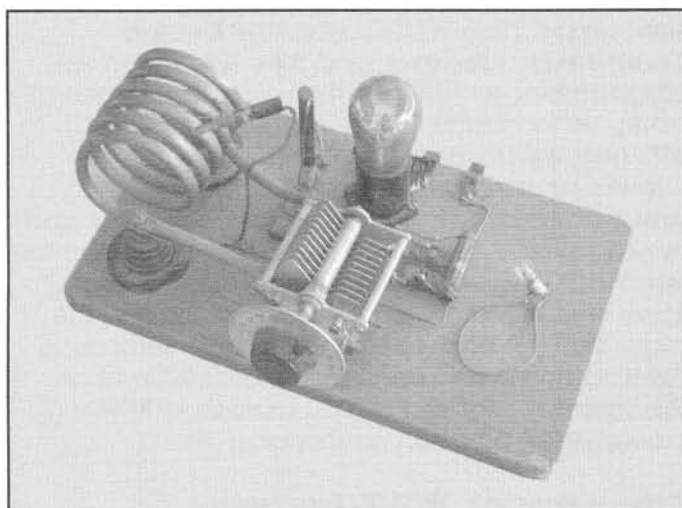
The Chapter 165 annual awards banquet and Christmas Party was held December 11, 2004 at Alexander's Family Restaurant in York, PA. There were 12 members and their ladies in attendance. As we have done in the past we invite the widows of our silent key members. There were 4 widows in attendance. After the dinner we held a short business meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Charles Arnold, W3PRG. The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurers report were approved. Under new business the chapter decided to make a donation to ARRL Spectrum defense fund again this year.

There were three 50th Anniversary awards to be presented to members. Richard Bernd, W3YPS, and George Reisinger, KB3DXP, were not able to attend



*Leo Meyerson, W0GFQ, and a few of his admirers.*



*John Aiton's, W6HAG, 1931 Transmitter.*



*Charles Arnold, W3PRG, (left) Chapter President, presents the 50th Anniversary award to Ray Shaub, W3AXC.*



the banquet. However, Raymond Shaub, W3AXC, chapter Secretary/Treasurer, received the 50th anniversary Award from President, Charles Arnold W3PRG.

All the ladies in attendance received a Poinsettia plant and the OM's received a digital multimeter as a Christmas present.

Our next bi-monthly meeting will be held at noon on February 12 at Hoss's Steak and Sea House on White Street in York, PA. Our meetings are always open to visiting QCWA members and prospective members.

**Raymond Shaub, W3AXC, Secretary**

### **Chapter 166, Colonial Chapter (PA)**

The annual holiday luncheon was held December 22nd at Granite Farm Estates in Wawa, PA. Eight members plus guests enjoyed the excellent food and fine service. The chapter thanks the lunch chairman Jim Faries, W3AOA, for making the arrangements.

A short business meeting followed the luncheon to discuss the need to fill vacant offices following the unexpected death of recently appointed president, Blake Butcher, W4MSZ, and recent retirements. John Chromy, K3CNI, was elected to the Board of Directors.

**George Gadbois, W3FEY reporter**

### **Chapter 169, Sacramento Valley (CA)**

Chapter 169 meets monthly at Carrows Restaurant located at 4601 Watt Avenue in North Highlands, CA. The restaurant is on the west side of Watt Avenue just north of the Interstate 80 Freeway. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday each month.

We try to have a speaker for each of our monthly meetings. The last quarter featured:

A local TV personality, Ben Stoeker, talked to us regarding various conspiracies and related some UFO stories.

Wally Baer, W7WGB, gave a brief history and showed a video about the "Spruce Goose", a aeronautics project of the late Howard Hughes. The "Goose" is now a tourist attraction in McMinnville, OR.

Gary Stilwell, KI6T, showed a video provided by the Northern California DX Foundation on a 2000 DX-expedition to Bhutan. The group used the call sign A52A.

The change of meeting time has been working well. So come and join us at 9 AM. Troops start gathering at 8 AM for the no host breakfast. YLs are always welcome. For further information please contact our President, Paul Wolf, W6RLP, at (916) 489-8112.

**Gary Stilwell, KI6T, Secretary/Treasurer**



*Chapter 169 Secretary, KI6T, (right) presents service award to Chapter President, Paul Wolf, W6RLP (left).*

### **Chapter 175, Oregon Coast (OR)**

Winter has settled in on the Oregon Coast. For the most part it's wet down here at sea level. Listening to the mountain crew from the local repeater group tells another story. Nearby Mt Hebo at 3100 feet has a coating of white today and some things have gone wrong with the APRS and weather reporting at the top of the mountain, so a couple of the maintenance guys are on the road to see what's wrong. Your writer is happy to stay home with a warm mocha and follow their adventures. We all listen and use these systems, yet sometimes it's easy to forget what's really going on behind the scenes. You can see the local crew and read about their adventures on the web at

<<http://www.ocrg.org>>[www.ocrg.org](http://www.ocrg.org), along with some fine links to the latest weather, earthquake, and tsunami bulletins.

Chapter 175 has been having a full house for the luncheons in recent months and we have another eight or so on the prospective members list. Several from the repeater group are either ready to join or waiting for that last year or two to click away and add up to the magic 25. It's a good feeling to have fine local hams who want to be a part of QCWA.

The Oregon Coast chapter meets every two months for a luncheon at the Surfrider Resort north of Depoe Bay, Oregon on Highway 101. This is usually on one of the last Saturdays of the month at 1 p.m. These luncheons are fun and informal with an outstanding window view out over the Pacific Ocean. We order off the regular menu with individual checks. Contact W7LI@arrl.net for information and the next meeting date.

**Carl Somdahl, W7LI, Secretary**

### Chapter 196, Edison (FL)

A few years ago I got a call on an HF band and met Mike Gurka, K2UGH. Since then Mike and I got to be good friends. He became the Vice President of Chapter 196. Mike has been a ham since 1956 and ole 'kilowatt Mike' has been known to be a ham's ham.

I would like to mention some of Mike's accomplishments and hope that his friends remember him from way back when. His love for electronics never ended. Mike retired as an electronic engineer and was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlantis Electronics.

The Radio Club of America selected Mike to be a Fellow. That is a top notch honor from a group of peers and it has to be earned the hard way.

While living in another state Mike served as a bank director. When he moved to Florida with his wife Stella, WB2FAU, he was very active in the ham radio community. Mike assisted the local hams by being the technical specialist for south Florida, the local government liaison and the Vice President of the Gulf Coast Area Repeater Club.

As a young man Mike served our country faithfully in the Air Force overseas. Now, my friends Mike is again soaring with the eagles. He will be forever missed. 73 es cul om.

**Tad Burik, K3QC**

### Chapter 210, Omaha (NE)

See page 37 article: Veteran's Day Special Event Station

### Chapter 213, Fresno (CA)

We were saddened to lose our President, Jimmie Wakefield, W6PSQ, on October 5, 2004 after a short illness. Jimmie was the spark plug that got the Fresno Chapter organized and going. Our meetings have over 20 in attendance. The members desire to have the meetings be mostly social affairs without a formal program. Hal Torosian, K6OGX, became a Silent Key on December 13, 2004. Since the chapter was formed in Feb. 2004, 3 members have become Silent Keys. We had a special meeting for December to celebrate the end of 2004.

**Charles McConnell, W6DPD**

### Chapter 214, Bluegrass Chapter (KY)

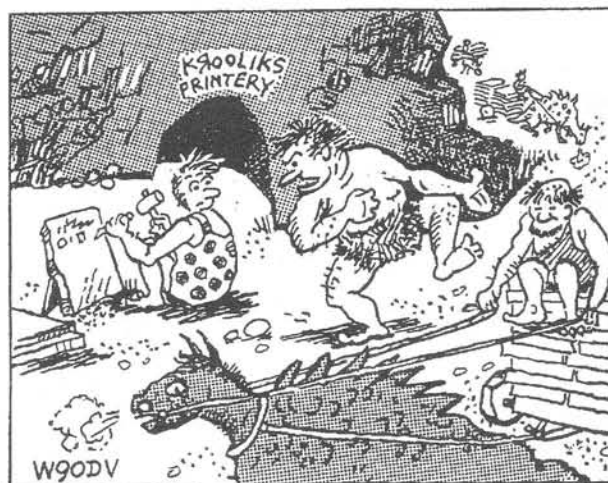
After our initial organizational meetings, and receipt of our new Charter number, Matt Tinker, W9PW, was elected President, and Dave Comstock, W8HYX, was elected Secretary. The first dinner

meeting of the Bluegrass Chapter was held on December 8th at the Golden Corral in Ashland, Kentucky. Charter members Pete Stark, K40M, Dave Vest, KZ4G; Roger Castle, K4QYK; and Matt Tinker, W9PW, and guests had a fun evening of fellowship and some tall stories. Unable to attend was Dave Comstock, W8HYX. The Chapter is planning to get involved with local high schools to encourage young students to join Amateur Radio. Contact has been made with Ashland High School, and plans for contacting Greenup County and Russell High Schools are underway. The Chapter will again meet in February 2005 to finalize plans for Field Day, and our High School projects. Anyone in the Tri-State area (Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia) is welcome to join the Bluegrass Chapter. Call our President, Matt Tinker, W9PW, at 606-324-8752, or email him at: w9pw@arrl.org

**Dave Comstock, W8HYX**



Left to right: Mrs. Castle; Pete Stark, K40M; Dave Vest, KZ4G; Mrs. Tinker; Matt Tinker, W9PW; and Roger Castle, K4QYK.



"I'M RETURNING MY QSL CARDS -- YOU MADE A MISTAKE IN MY CAVE NUMBER!"

## Omaha Chapter 210, Veteran's Day Special Event Station KOAIR

November 11, 2004

Thanks to Jim, KF0FO, for the photos. This was the Veterans Day Special Event Operation from my W0HXL QTH using KOAIR. Former MARS call at Strategic Air Command (SAC) Headquarters, Offutt AFB, NE. We made 413 QSO's and worked a lot of Veterans.

The operators for this event were: KB0ZZT, George; W0YQY, Don; W0LYU, Bob; KF0FO, Jim and W0HXL, Dick. A great operating event and a super group of operators. Four of the five Ops are Omaha Chapter 210 QCWA members.

Dick, W0HXL, was stationed at SAC and worked in the 30th Comm. Squadron from March 1960 through April 1961. He held a Top Secret Cryptographic Clearance and worked in the underground complex. When off duty he operated the MARS station, KOAIR. He later served in England with SAC's 7th Air Division.

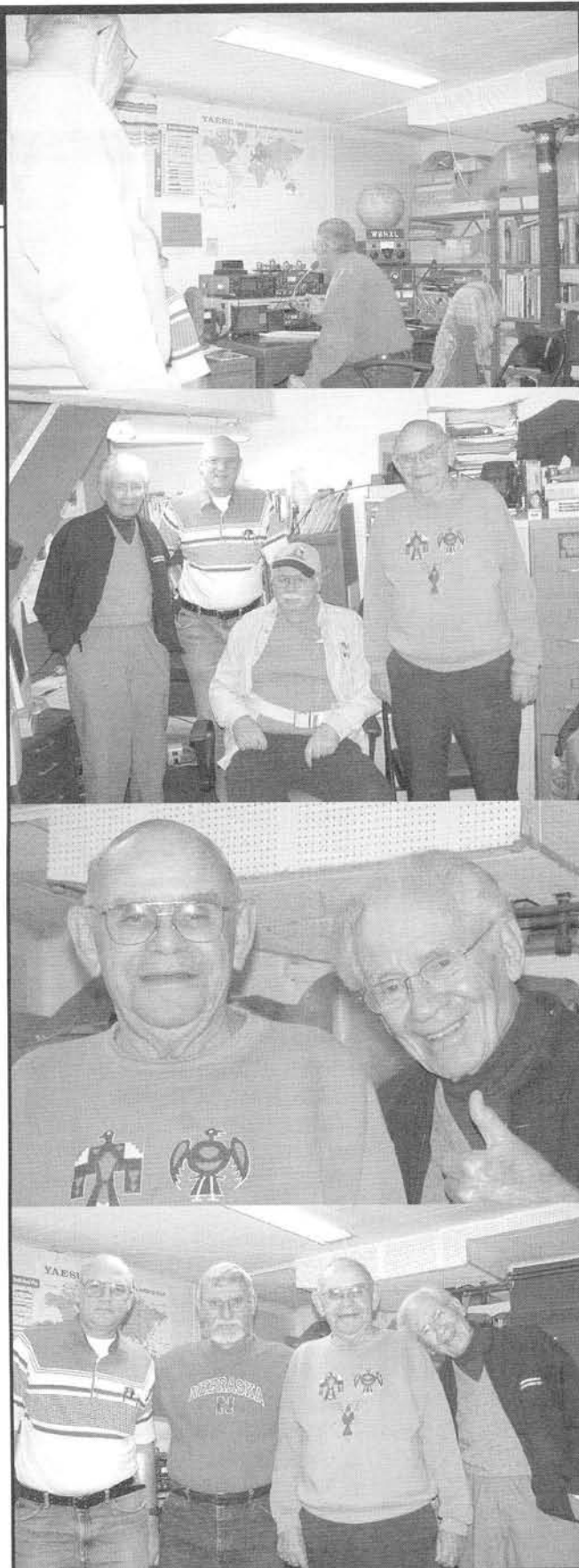
The 3 Vibroplex Bugs on the ICOM 751A transceiver are as follows:

- Vibroplex Original 1926 – black powder base with gold pinstripping.
- Vibroplex VibroKeyer – all chrome with red handles.
- Vibroplex Original Deluxe – all chrome red handles.

W0HXL has a Signal Electric Number 2 Spark Key, manufactured in Menominee, Michigan in the early 1900's. This old Straight Key is brass with black Navy Knob. The large silver contacts (I mean large) were designed to handle the Spark Transmitters from that Era.

This was our second year with this Special Events Station and we hope to continue again Veterans Day, 2005. Thank you! ■

**Dick Newsome, W0HXL**  
**Secretary/Treasurer, Chapter 210**



Photos of the Omaha Chapter 210 Veteran's Day Special Event Station



# New Members

# Spring 2005

Date	Mem. #	Name	Call	City	ST/PR	SPONSOR	SCALL
10/1/04	32737	PALSHA, MARK	KI4VB	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	CHARLES CHAPMAN	W1WTG
10/1/04	32738	KLINGER, WALLY	W9BEA	NORTHBROOK	IL	GIL KOWOLS	W9BUB
10/4/04	32739	SPEER, JACK A	N1BIC	MINERAL	VA	JOHN B JOHNSTON	W3BE
10/4/04	32740	FLEMING, ULIS	K3LU	ODENTON	MD	FRANCIS J HAYNES	W4NUA
10/4/04	32741	ALEXANDER, ALVIN G	K3ROJ	BALTIMORE	MD	DICK RUCKER	KM4ML
10/4/04	32742	LOCKHART, RALPH I	WB4CTW	OAK RIDGE	TN	JOHN B JOHNSTON	W3BE
10/5/04	32743	GROTH, ALLAN R	KD4VA	SUMTER	SC	-	-
10/5/04	32744	PETAGO, MAX	NOHU	FORT COLLINS	CO	WALTER HAYWARD	KOPLD
10/5/04	32745	MC HUGH, WILLIAM G	VE3NH	AILS CRAIG	ON	KEITH BENTLEY	VE3DHL
10/5/04	32746	KOVAC, PAUL E	VE3HFM	TORONTO	ON	TOM ATKINS	VE3CDM
10/6/04	32747	CLARKE, WALLACE E	VE3CBE	NEPEAN	ON	G KEITH BEDAL	VE3GFI
10/6/04	32748	ALDRIDGE, DONALD KING	AE4AH	OAKBORO	NC	CARL STARNES	W4EAT
10/6/04	32749	TALLEY, THOMAS J	W5XTT	TEXARKANA	TX	ROGER LEY	WA9PZL
10/6/04	32750	FARLEY, KEITH A	WA8ZWJ	UNION	OH	JOHN FRIDRICK	K8DSR
10/7/04	32751	JOLLY, JAMES L	W4YDL	LOUISVILLE	KY	-	-
10/8/04	32752	GRAHAM, ALEXANDER J	W3BJD	MURRYSVILLE	PA	ED YODER	W3YMB
10/8/04	32753	QUICK, JAMES E	N4ULE	LYMAN	SC	JOHN B JOHNSTON	W3BE
10/18/04	32754	LEMEN, JOHN E	WB0TNS	OMAHA	NE	DICK NEWSOME	W0HXL
10/18/04	32755	REIM, TERRY K	WA0DTH	SPRING HILL	KS	ALVIN WIECHMAN	W0ME
10/19/04	32756	MORRIS, EARL E	VE6NI	CALGARY	AB	KEN OELKE	VE6AFO
10/19/04	32757	GOODJOHN, MITCHELL T	VE6SM	CALGARY	AB	KEN OELKE	VE6AFO
10/19/04	32758	HOWARD, JOHN A (TONY)	VE6QY	CALGARY	AB	KEN OELKE	VE6AFO
10/19/04	32759	SINEATH, JAMES J	WD4JHF	SUMMERVILLE	SC	BRYCE N MYERS	K4LXF
10/19/04	32760	SINEATH, LINDA R	WD4JHG	SUMMERVILLE	SC	BRYCE N MYERS	K4LXF
10/19/04	32761	CLINTON, ROBERT H	W0BUX	HALLSVILLE	MO	WAYLAND MACKENZIE	K4CHS
10/19/04	32762	FLEENOR, THOMAS "MARK"	WD4DNG	BUNKER HILL	WV	-	-
10/20/04	32763	CASTLE, ROGER	K4QYK	GREENUP	KY	-	-
10/21/04	32764	KEYSER, ED K	KA6FYU	FREMONT	CA	DAVID R CHAMBERS	WA6MZR
10/21/04	32765	JONES, GARY W	WB7DIE	MT VERNON	WA	BOB ROESNER	WB7WOW
10/21/04	32766	LAMBERT, FRANCIS C	W1LJF	ROUND LAKE	NY	EDGAR WHITAKER	K2DLL
10/22/04	32767	SPRAGUE, LAWRENCE K	W1UVJ	WEST PALM BEACH	FL	-	-
11/1/04	32768	FORBES, HAYES E, JR	WA5ZSH	YUKON	OK	GENE NAILON	K5DLE
11/1/04	32769	ISAACS, RONALD L	K9IHJ	BATON ROUGE	LA	KEITH R MACK	AC5IA
11/1/04	32770	TERRELL, JOHN C	N6LN	BAKERSFIELD	CA	-	-
11/2/04	32771	BALDWIN, JOHN	KA9F	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	-	-
11/2/04	32772	COLLINS, LLOYD CHARLES	W0LCC	WEBSTER GROVES	MO	JOHN GERMANOS	WB9PNU
11/9/04	32773	LEWIS, RAYMOND	AK4RL	SIGNAL MOUNTAIN	TN	-	-
11/9/04	32774	PLATT, WILLIAM JR	WB0MAF	CENTRALIA	MO	WAYLAND N MC KENZIE, JR	K4CHS
11/10/04	32775	THEOPHILUS, DAVID C	W0NRW	FREMONT	NE	JON L HOFFMAN	WN0L
11/15/04	32776	PARKER, FREDERICK J	WB2SMR	WELLS	VT	R E SEIFERT	KB2FF
11/16/04	32777	KING, ALICE I	A14K	LARGO	FL	JOE SWINGLE	W9DGW
11/18/04	32778	KELLY, JEFFREY W	K4JAB	HORSE SHOE	NC	-	-
11/18/04	32779	MORRIS, JOHN R, JR	K0JRM	DENVER	CO	-	-
11/19/04	32780	HERSH, IVAN P	W5KNL	BELEN	NM	PAUL RIDLEY	N5PR
11/19/2004	32781	LAUGERMANN, FRANZ J	K3FL	HOUSTON	TX	-	-
11/22/2004	32782	STEWART, JOHN L	KE6DK	FORESTHILL	CA	CHUCK MC CONNEL	W6DPD
11/22/2004	32783	BLAIR, JACK (JOHN) T	VE6ARQ	CALGARY	AB	KEN OELKE	VE6AFO
11/22/2004	32784	ESTES, RICHARD	K8LRY	MEDINA	OH	-	-
11/22/2004	32785	AKRE, ROLAND CUTLER	K4ZZ	COLUMBIA	SC	-	-
11/22/2004	32786	COLLVER, BUD	WA8LRC	ESTERO	FL	TAD BURIK	K3QC

## New Members (continued)

Date	Mem. #	Name	Call	City	ST/PR	SPONSOR	SCALL
11/23/04	32787	GIRD, RICHARD	K6PZE	SAN DIEGO	CA	HARRY A HODGES	W6Y00
11/23/04	32788	KANE, MARY ANNE	KD8AOS	YPSILANTI	MI	BEVERLEY M STONER	K8ZJU
11/23/04	32789	ROBERTSON, THOMAS J	K5TJR	DAINGERFIELD	TX	ROGER LEY	WA9PZL
11/26/04	32790	BIRON, ARMAND	W1NRX	MANSFIELD CENTER	CT	-	-
11/26/04	32791	SPILLET, DAVID	KA2CTN	CLAY	NY	JAMES M MOZLEY	W2BCH
11/29/04	32792	THORNE, BRUCE W	KE8TI	SOUTH EUCLID	OH	-	-
11/29/04	32793	FRASER, KARL "LEFTY"	KK1A	EUGENE	OR	LARRY MC CALVEY	WB9JMO
11/29/04	32794	RODGER, JOHN C	VE3JR	OTTAWA	ON	GEORGE ROACH	VE3BNO
11/29/04	32795	FARNSWORTH, JOHN	KW2N	CLYDE	NC	-	-
11/29/04	32796	ATKINS, WILLIAM W	KC4WU	WARNER ROBINS	GA	-	-
11/30/04	32797	GILL, CHARLES T	K0GIE	MONUMENT	CO	-	-
12/3/04	32798	JOHNSON, MORRIS C	KB4IT	GRIFFIN	GA	BOB LEAR	K4SZ
12/3/04	32799	EMPEY, HUGH EDWARD	WA7ETH	MARYSVILLE	WA	ROBERT L ROESNER	WB7WOW
12/6/04	32800	LEWIS, JAMES L "JIM"	WB0VYH	AURORA	CO	-	-
12/6/04	32801	MARKEY, RICHARD P JR	KN3C	LEBANON	PA	BRUCE E BLESSING	KE3AM
12/6/04	32802	MC CORD, ROBERT L	W5ATA	ROUND ROCK	TX	CURTIS GOODSON	W4QBU
12/7/04	32803	PARMENTER, RONALD F	K8RFP	DETROIT	MI	LEN NATHANSON	W8RC
12/7/04	32804	MOSHER, PHILIP GORDON	K2PGM	FORT COLLINS	CO	STEPHEN C BABCOKE	WB0UWE
12/7/04	32805	GONOS, PETER	W6PX	SHINGLE SPRINGS	CA	PAUL WOLF	W6RLP
12/7/04	32806	SANFORD, JAMES A	K8ZZU	CLARKSTON	MI	TIM PEPPER	K8NWD
12/20/04	32807	KAGEL, DENNIS B	WA2JWO	SCHUYLERVILLE	NY	R E SEIFERT	KB2FF
12/14/04	32808	HEINS, PAUL	AE6QP	CLOVIS	CA	CHARLES MC CONNELL	W6DPD
12/14/04	32809	MARK, K H MARK"	NB8S	FARMINGTON HILLS	MI	RICHARD MARK	WZ8N
12/16/04	32810	BRANNICK, PATRICK J	N2BZD	BRICK	NJ	-	-
12/17/04	32811	KLEPSE, WILLIAM F, JR	WB2AIV	SNYDER	NY	BOB HABERMEHL	W2KKZ
12/17/04	32812	HOLT, GARY L	WG9Q	PINCKNEYVILLE	IL	-	-
12/17/04	32813	WARREN, JAMES DAVID	WA2HJB	DEPTFORD	NJ	-	-
12/17/04	32814	GOODING, TIM	KD0YX	W FARGO	ND	FRANK SHAW	NU0F
12/17/04	32815	WATT, JAMES T	W9ATT	NEW LENOX	IL	-	-
12/20/04	32816	OWER, ROBERT C	WA7YUL	PRESCOTT	AZ	-	-
12/20/04	32817	MARTENS, HARRY A	WA0FMZ	ABERDEEN	SD	ROLAND CORY	WOYMB
12/20/04	32818	ASHMAN, JAMES M	W8ASH	NEW BREMEN	OH	-	-
12/21/04	32819	WILLEY, ROBERT E	KD7OWN	CENTRALIA	WA	STEVE PACK	WB7VAS
12/21/04	32820	COLTON, JACK R	W2FIA	DAVENPORT	FL	PAUL TURNER	W1DLP
12/21/04	32821	FINK, JULIAN D	KC2QJ	BOYNTON BEACH	FL	RICH ARONSON	K2RVM
12/21/04	32822	O'CALLAGHAN, JAMES P	NY4M	WEST PALM BEACH	FL	JEFF BEALS	WA4AW
12/21/04	32823	THOMPSON, THOMAS M	W2TMT	LOXAHATCHEE	FL	JEFF BEALS	WA4AW
12/22/04	32824	KELLY, ALBERT J	KB3KNW	HOMOSASSA	FL	-	-
12/23/04	32825	MITCHELL, JACK L	N7MJ	CHEYENNE	WY	DON MILLER	K7TFW
12/27/04	32826	PETERS, CHARLES K	N4FKE	RECTORTOWN	VA	-	-
12/27/04	32827	WATSON, ROBERT D	W0YOC	STILLWATER	MN	-	-
12/27/04	32828	FOSTER, WAYNE	K7NEJ	ORLANDO	FL	-	-
12/31/04	32829	BABOW, RICHARD	K6KFS	TUCSON	AZ	-	-
12/31/04	32830	KWASNESKI, DANIEL (SKIP)	KA8IXC	WETMORE	MI	-	-



# The Highway Master Experience

by Thomas W. Webb

From July of 1995 until July of 1998 I worked as a Quality Engineer for HighwayMaster, Inc. of Dallas, Texas. This start-up company was founded in the early 1990s to produce an electronic communications system for over-the-road trucks (eighteen wheelers). This system utilized voice and data communications as well as GPS (Global Positioning System) locating ability. It allowed truck company dispatchers to know where each truck was at all times, and provided direct communication between driver and dispatcher, eliminating the need for drivers to stand in long lines at truck stop pay telephones. It utilized the nation's cellular telephone networks for its communications. The system was very effective when it worked.

The two founders were ex-truck company executives who knew a lot about the trucking business, but nothing at all about producing a product for sale. During my interview, I was asked about my trucking experience. I told them that my father-in-law was an owner/operator until he lost his truck in a card game. They didn't seem to think that unusual. I heard that they later quit asking that question of prospective employees after getting blank stares from a few Chinese computer programmers.

My boss was the Director of Operations, a fel-

low I had known from my time at Texas Instruments. I also knew that TI fired him for incompetence, but he was a nice enough guy and I figured we could get along. Two days later he was fired, and not replaced. I was assigned to report to the Director of Customer

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*"...I also knew that TI fired him for incompetence, but he was a nice enough guy and I figured we could get along. Two days later he was fired, and not replaced."*

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Education. This group conducted classes for customers to teach them how to use the system. A week later this guy was fired and replaced with a guy with no experience at all, who left me alone. About this time I figured out that somebody had told the bosses they needed a quality engineer, so they hired me. I had no direction and no responsibilities. Mostly I just walked around looking at things, and forcing my way into meetings trying to figure out what was going on.

The system consisted of a square seven-layer circuit board about a foot on each side enclosed in



an aluminum casting. It had about 1200 components. It was built by a contract manufacturer in Alabama.

The system had a voice recognition feature that allowed the truck driver to talk through the system without picking up the handset. There was a small microphone mounted on the sun visor in the truck.

I had one of the systems in my car. After playing with it a while, I found that when I said the word "nine," when dialing a number, it came

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***"Whoever made the drawings didn't understand connector polarity, or sex, and just randomly called each connector a 'plug' or a 'jack.' We received a lot of cable assemblies with incorrect connectors."***

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out "five." No matter how I said the word, it always came out "five." I always got the wrong number. I reported this to the engineering department, and they said it was just something weird about my voice. Sure enough, most people didn't have the problem.

One day I walked by a classroom where the instructor was demonstrating the voice recognition system. I went to the front of the class, picked up the mike, and said "nine." Of course it showed on the computer screen as "five." The instructor asked me to leave.

Looking for something to do, I found that the production parts drawings were in pretty bad shape, particularly with regard to connectors. We purchased large custom wire harnesses for each model of truck.

Whoever made the drawings didn't understand connector polarity, or sex, and just randomly called each connector a "plug" or a "jack." We received a lot of cable assemblies with incorrect connectors. I spent days fixing a couple of hundred drawings.

Up to then, HighwayMaster had no incoming inspection facility at the warehouse. I set up a

system, wrote inspection instructions, and hired two inspectors. I bought plug gauges, calipers, a cable tester, and some other test equipment.

Still, the inspectors didn't get the plug/jack thing. I explained "Plug/jack, you know, male/female." They still didn't get it. I ended up placing a wooden board at incoming inspection which contained every connector we bought, with part numbers and printed descriptions.

A couple of months after my start date, we began to get a lot of "Bad out of box" systems from the contract manufacturer. The systems were shipped direct from Alabama to the customers, and we were getting complaints.

I determined that the reject rate had gone from about two percent to about twenty percent. I went to Alabama and met with the contract manufacturer. They said, and they convinced me, that they were doing nothing differently. I was never able to determine why the sudden

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***"I was given free run of the place. I spent hours on the assembly line, watching the Alabama ladies stuff the boards, do the tests, etc. I found that they were doing many things incorrectly..."***

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jump in failures. The failures seemed completely random and were across the board. No pattern. I spent about three months at that facility. I was given free run of the place. I spent hours on the assembly line, watching the Alabama ladies stuff the boards, do the tests, etc. I found that they were doing many things incorrectly, mostly not following written procedures, and I corrected them one at a time. One day I noticed a lady standing up to put two hands on an ill-fitting heat sink to force it into the board. Each time she did this, she popped a few surface mount parts off the board.

I shut the line down and made them throw away all the defective heat sinks and order new ones, and set up a procedure to have them

measured at their incoming inspection. I nearly got fired over this, as it shut down production for two weeks.

To illustrate how disconnected the quality engineer was from the business, one day I got a phone call from a trucking company owner in Georgia. He was complaining that the FAX interface boxes he had bought from us couldn't be mounted in his trucks. I was unaware of the existence of the product. Turns out the company had offered this device for sale without telling the quality department (me). It would allow truckers to have FAX machines in their cabs. I told the guy I'd get back to him, and looked into the problem. There were four screws that were to be removed by the customer to facilitate mounting under the dashboards of trucks. But the screws had been put in so tightly, they couldn't be removed. I went to the warehouse, found five of the units, fixed them and FedExed them to the Georgia trucker. Then I spent the afternoon fixing all of the units in stock. I also issued a manufacturing change notice specifying screw torque.

I informed my boss that I had found and fixed this problem. He was appalled, saying "This is being addressed at the highest level. We're having meetings on it every day." I told him to never mind the meetings, it is fixed. He told me I could be fired over this. I never heard any more about it. Not even an attaboy.

The next and final tale is about Project 3000. If someone had told me this really happened, I wouldn't have believed it. I sent a description of it to the Dilbert comic strip, but haven't seen it yet.

In the fall of 1997 it was decided by management that we should go into the cellular telephone business, since we already had a nationwide cellular network at our disposal. Our engineering department was tasked with designing a cell phone.

The thing they designed, admittedly under unrelenting pressure, was about the size of a loaf of bread. And it didn't work. It failed alpha testing miserably. Engineering was told to fix it and it was decided to skip beta testing so we could go directly to market. We ordered 100,000 sets

of parts. We bought time on Bill Mack's WBAP late night trucking radio show.

Our usage charge was set at 59 cents a minute. The Monday in early January our product was released, AT&T announced their 10 cents a minute charge for all long-distance cellular calls.

We sold about forty of the things, and they all were returned because they didn't work.

Every Monday morning we had a "Project 3000" meeting, chaired by the CEO. Mainly he told us to make the thing work and not complain.

The last such meeting I attended was chaired by a young girl, 20 or so, who walked in unannounced and started the usual pep talk about the project. I raised my hand and said "Excuse me, who are you?" She answered that she was the new Project Manager for Project 3000. I offered my congratulations. There were no more meetings. We never did figure out who the girl was; She was either the CEO's mistress or his niece.

HighwayMaster went belly up a few months later. ■

## **QCWA Hamvention Banquet**

**Hosted by Chapter 9  
Friday 20 May-2005 7:30PM**

**Alex's Continental Restaurant  
125 Monarch Ln.  
Miamisburg OH**

For Reservation send request  
with check (\$18.00 ea) to:  
**Jerry Ragland, WA8BOB  
409 Park Ave.  
Franklin OH 45005-3550**

Make check out to:  
Jerry Ragland, Treasurer

# Silent Keys Silent Keys Silent Keys Silent Keys

With great sadness we record the passing of these members

NAME	CALL	MEM. #	L	SK	CITY	ST/PR
AMBRY, WILLIAM J	VE6WA	28464		CALGARY		AB
APPLETON, DARWIN B	K4RR	01128	L	HENDERSONVILLE		NC
BLAKELY, HALE	W9CBE	16045		MCFARLAND		WI
BOWDER, DAVID G	WA0UKE	26860		OMAHA		NE
BRANT, JOHN H	W8WAB	05268		BAY VILLAGE		OH
BROWN, LLOYD	W0CON	18400		HARTLEY		IA
BRUMMETT, ELDON	K7KXW	22573		YAKIMA		WA
BULLARD, DON W	W0KRD	28563		MARION		IA
BURKE, ALFRED S	W3VR	00096		CLEARWATER		FL
BUTCHER, WILLIAM BLAKE	W4MSZ	31963		GAP		PA
CARMER, LLOYD E	K0KQJ	22487		MARSHALLTOWN		IA
CHILDS, FRED B	W0WQ	09890	L	NORTH SAINT PAUL		MN
CLOWES, ROBERT T	K4MB	04041		CLEARWATER		FL
CUMMINGS, CHARLES W	WA6QXK	19783		CATHEDRAL CITY		CA
D'EON, ALDERIC L	VE3AND	31347	L	TORONTO		ON
DANIEL, LONNIE B	W4YD	14540	L	THEODORE		AL
EDWARDS, ALBERT DENNIS	WA8LFU	22985		COMMERCE TOWNSHIP		MI
FALLS, THOMAS E	K4IKV	17776		NEWNAN		GA
FOSTER, ELLARD W	W5KE	06917		OKLAHOMA CITY		OK
GOERS, THEODORE	W7ORB	25428		SHOSHONE		ID
HAVEL, JEROME M	W2RRX	15412		SPRINGFIELD		MO
KLEESPIE, DAVID S	WB5PSN	29543		GREENVILLE		MS
KORDOWSKI, EUGENE J	NZ3D	28191		TOBYHANNA		PA
LARWOOD, WILLIAM E	W0JZN	20506		OSAGE CITY		KS
LEMLEY, MYRHL	W8MND	03305		LOUISVILLE		OH
MAC FARLANE, JOHN S	K5WVR	18457		SHREVEPORT		LA
MADIGAN, MICHAEL J	AB4MA	22250		DUNEDIN		FL
MASTERS, BERYL	WB0EJJ	27252		KANSAS CITY		MO
MATHIASSEN, ROBERT C JR	W6JZY	10119		SAN ANSELMO		CA
MOBERLY, C P	KS8P	32063		GRANDVILLE		MI
MOSER, CLARENCE H	W3RLJ	13726		ERIE		PA
NAYLOR, WILBUR	W0WXY	12231		CONCORDIA		KS
POLEN, DAVID W	W8FRB	08941	L	CANTON		OH
RICE, LLOYD A	WW0S	24687		DUNNEGAN		MO
ROBINSON, DONALD G	K0DXT	27547		BELMOND		IA
SAPPAH, CHARLES H	KL7PJ	12687	L	ANCHORAGE		AK
SCHOENER, RALPH W	W8TPS	03226		COSHOCOTON		OH
SCOVILLE, RAYMOND J JR	K8DEN	26303		ALLIANCE		OH
SEPPALA, ELMER J	KC3LV	19399		FAIRVIEW		PA
SHAW, WILL A	W5ARV	02755	L	VENUS		TX
SHEA, THOMAS J	W1HYO	25230		WEST SPRINGFIELD		MA
SPAMER, GEORGE G	W1DPR	14905	L	PALM BAY		FL
STANKIEWICZ, LEO JOHN	W8ZCN	18564		CINCINNATI		OH
STENGEL, PETER D	W1WYX	19070		READFIELD		ME
STOKES, ROBERT W	N4EFV	29667		BEACON		NY
STRAZZARINO, JOSEPH A	W6BWZ	27983	L	SACRAMENTO		CA
THACKERAY, VERNON L	W5CSY	15554		ALBUQUERQUE		NM
THING, ROBERT S	W1SJN	26534		SPRING HILL		FL
TOROSIAN, HAROLD O	K6OGX	17884	L	TULARE		CA
TUCKWILLER, JAMES L	AA4L	31107		SALEM		VA
TURNER, ROBERT W	W1JIO	23899		GROTON		CT
VALASHINAS, WILLIAM J	WA2NWI	25101		COCOA BEACH		FL
VICARS, WORLEY F	W4FEO	25079		KINGSPORT		TN
WAKEFIELD, JAMES F	W6PSQ	03687	L	FRESNO		CA
WAKEFIELD, JIMMIE	KH6JVJ	09894		HONOLULU		HI
WILKERSON, SHIRLEY, JR	W4TBU	21461		HENDERSON		KY
ZAVARELLA, ARTHUR	W1KK	08482	L	AGAWAM		MA



# Random Recollections of an Old Ham

A Journalistic History of The Life and Times in Amateur Radio of George Hart, W1NJM — by George Hart, W1NJM

## The Return to ARRL

**F**inal separation from the Army occurred at Fort Dix, N.J. in early September, 1946. If I had stayed in the Army another month I would have been separated as a captain, but I didn't even consider it. I did sign up for three years in the inactive reserve, just in case -in case the war was resumed or another one came along within the three year period., in which case I would be reactivated as a captain or, if I served in the active reserve, maybe even a major. The promotion from captain to major was a big one, from a junior grade officer to a "field" grade, but I had no intention of continuing my Army career if it was left up to me, I wanted to get back into civilian life, raise my family, and continue working at dear old ARRL, hopefully taking up where I left off in 1944.

Alas, this was not to be. From Fort Dix I took train connections to Port Allegany, Pa., the nearest passenger station to Coudersport, where I was met by Louise in our old Chevy coupe. There were no cries of joy, no huggings and kissings. Just a "hello, honey" and an almost-casual acceptance. We were an old married couple. Freddy was a year old and walking but not yet talking. The second-floor apartment had only two bedrooms and a small kitchen. Louise's sister Gene (Eugenia) had moved in with her mother while Louise, Freddy and I occupied the other room.

It was a crowded arrangement, but it only lasted a few days, then we packed up the Chevy and drove to Easton to stay a few days with my mother at the farm while we arranged to have our little house in Newington vacated so we could move back in. We found the house in run-down condition, but this was to be expected. I even looked forward to getting it back in shape. In 1946 we were still the last house at the end of Highland St. Not until 1954 did the developers move in and we were surrounded by new houses as Newington rapidly changed from a rural to a suburban community.

There was no great celebration of my return to ARRL headquarters, either. Ed Handy, W1BDI, Ev Battey, W1UE, and Joe Moskey, W1JMY, had all returned and were firmly entrenched in the Communications Department, Ed as the boss, Ev as his right-hand man

and Joe as an assistant. Ed wanted me to start a new program of providing training aids to the affiliated clubs, to bring up the level of radio and electronic knowledge among licensed amateurs and would-be licensees; also proficiency in the Morse Code, which was still the principal mode employed by amateurs during this period. The program was tentative, experimental, but it was one of Ed Handy's brainstorms. My title would be "communications assistant" and my salary would be about half of what it had been before I joined the Army in 1944.

Naturally, I was disappointed, but this wasn't the first time I had felt downgraded in my work at ARRL headquarters, nor would it be the last. Nevertheless, I tackled the task with vigor, first by writing a series of lessons plans for teaching Morse Code, then procuring surplus Army training films and equipment, then setting up a procedure for making the films and equipment available to affiliated clubs. I had practically a free hand and sufficient funds and the program burgeoned. It was an Ed Handy innovation, one of many during his 42-year career at ARRL headquarters. I did so well and Ed was so pleased with my progress that I was kept in it while another person was employed to take over as national trunk line manager, replacing Joe Moskey who had moved up to replace Ev Battey who had returned to active duty in the Navy. I would have dearly loved the trunk line job, but Ed felt I was irreplaceable in training aids. The new man was Al Hill, W6JQB, a very good CW man from California. We became good friends.

About this time the ARRL Board of Directors was becoming increasingly concerned with lack of attention by the League to the growing number of amateurs who operated only by voice. This had resulted in the formation of two other amateur radio societies, both anti-ARRL and one consisting exclusively of "phone" operators. Most of the ARRL staff were CW oriented, so the Board mandated that a new position in the Communications Department devoted exclusively to voice (phone) operation be created and that a new man, one not at present on the staff, be hired with the

title "assistant communications manager for phone," while Al Hill would become "assistant communications manager for CW". I thought the whole concept ridiculous and once again felt myself being pushed down, although I was not the slightest interested in being the phone manager.

Almost simultaneous with the above developments, the ARRL Board of Directors, becoming increasingly involved in headquarters management, mandated that still another employee be added to the Communications Department, a man fully qualified in emergency communications organizing to go out in the field and "take charge" whenever an emergency communications situation developed. This man would be a major employee, second in the CD only to Ed Handy himself, with a salary commensurate with his importance on the staff. His title would be "national emergency coordinator." It was relatively easy to find an ACM Phone. This turned out to be Lew McCoy, WOICP from Missouri. The "national emergency coordinator" turned out to be Al "Doc" Hayes, W3LVY. Doc was 6' 8" tall, an erudite, aggressive person with a nevertheless agreeable personality. It was rumored that Doc's salary exceeded that of Ed Handy himself, and I strongly suspected that the new ACM-phone started with a salary higher than mine. I remained a relatively obscure communications assistant in charge of training aids. I was not a happy employee. Being holder of a M.A. degree in English composition from Penn State, I felt I was not living up to my qualifications and decided to seek other employment but found myself qualified for only one thing - teaching English in a private school. I did not qualify for public school teaching because this required a degree in education. I made several inquiries among the many private schools in Connecticut and New England but found no one interested. I really didn't want to teach anyway.

It was an unhappy period. I was not bitter, blaming only myself for lack of aggressiveness and "drive," and strongly suspecting a weakness of character. I continued plugging away at my training aids job, telling myself I was biding my time until someone recognized my capabilities.

It was a time of great change in the Communications Department. Ed Handy was "investigated" by a Board of Directors committee as to his conduct of the department. Ed's biggest problem was his many eccentricities, so far from the norm that only his closest acquaintances recognized the great ability behind the veil. In his heyday in the late twenties and early thirties he was respected and admired, made a vice president and a member of the Executive Committee. After the war, with so many new concepts coming to the fore, his popularity waned among the directors and to many he became an object of ridicule. Everyone made fun of

him, mostly behind his back. Even I, one of his greatest admirers, could not resist doing so at times. Most of the CD staff also admired him, but we all joined in the fun. Others, including some other staff members, were unable to overlook his eccentricities and see the genius underneath. Some of the directors considered him totally unfit for his executive position and harassed him mercilessly. He was stripped of his vice presidency, removed from the Executive Committee, placed under the jurisdiction of the general manager. He was very popular in the field, ridiculed by those who knew him only slightly, made fun of but basically admired by those who knew him well.

The Board's mandates did not work out well. Doc Hayes was dispatched to the field to take charge of an emergency operation only once. The local people resented having a "man from headquarters" show up to take over, and Doc's aggressive and peremptory approach did little to appease this; on the contrary, it made it worse. His stint as NEC was a short one, but we all liked him. He had a good sense of humor, a very outgoing personality and was full of fun. He was also a good technical man. I remember one occasion, must have been in 1947, when he invited us to his rented home in Coventry, Conn., to inspect a new amplifier he had built using push-pull 204A's. Designed to resemble the Heintz & Kaufman amplifier used at W1MK in the late twenties and early thirties. It really was a masterpiece and worked very well. There were about four of us in the party, all transported to Coventry in my '37 Chevy Coupe. The only passenger I remember was Joe Moskey, who was forced to sit on somebody's lap because the coupe could seat only 3. We laughed and swore at each other for the entire trip. But the top of the evening was reached, after a few beers, when Doc started bragging about his antenna tuner, which he claimed could "load up a wet string." When some of us expressed skepticism, he set out to prove it. He obtained a random piece of old clothes line, soaked it in salt water and strung it around the room, one end coupled to the tuner. After trial and error he finally got it to resonate, then called a CQ. (Doc was a highly proficient CW operator.) No answer, so he tried it again. On the third CQ he got a call from a W2 in New Jersey, who gave him an S6 report (medium strong signal strength). When he told the operator at the other end that we were using a wet string for an antenna, the latter quickly signed off. It was a hilarious evening, one of many we enjoyed in Doc's company.

The ARRL Trunk Line system was still functioning, having been reactivated after the war by Joe Moskey and continued by Al Hill, but as time went on I began to have doubts. The trunk lines were set up on a point-to-point

(continued on page 47)

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**WANTED:** ARRL ANTENNA COMPENDIUM #4 GEORGE L. SENSIBAR W9RR PO BOX 280 DACULA, GA 30019-0005 (770) 962-6800

### Corrections:

When Walter Maxwell composed the captions for the pictures in the last issue of the Journal he incorrectly gave Al's call sign as W8UK, which should be W6UK.

The call sign held by Travis Baird is W9VQD. The Winter 2004 edition of the QCWA Journal shows it as W9QVD.

Luke Zimmermann incorrectly had his last name spelled as Zimmerman. His correct call sign is W5MLB.

The Journal apologizes for any inconvenience.



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individual schedule basis, mainly because crystal control was still being used, the crystals supplied by ARRL to trunk line stations. But wartime experience had changed things, VFO's were more in use and spot frequency operation was starting to be the norm rather than the exception. While the trunk lines gradually changed, many independent nets started operation - independent, that is, of the ARRL-organized traffic-handling structure. Even the trunk lines started using spot-frequency network operation. My personal experience was with Trunk Line C, which went from Maine to Florida along the east coast. Two separate spot-frequency nets were set up, one called TLCN and the other TLCS, with liaison stations between them. So they were not really a trunk line at all, but two separate spot-frequency nets, and their coverage soon became undefinable as stations off the route of the trunk line started taking part and being recognized.

Doc Hayes set up his own net, independent of the ARRL structure, operating on a spot frequency with whatever coverage it could attain. He called it Traffic Outlet (TO) and it drew quite a following, one of which was myself. Other independents sprung up, such as Trunk Line Atlantic-Pacific (not a trunk line at all, but a spot frequency net) under Ferd Theide, W2EC; Hit & Bounce, under W4PL; Traffic Hounds Morning Watch under W4IA (formerly W1UE of the CD staff), and on the west coast the Pioneer Net; several others, all operating independently of ARRL trunk lines, all with indefinable coverage areas, many overlapping. The traffic picture in amateur radio was beginning to resemble a melting pot, everything on a catch-as-catch-can basis, with a minimum of organization. As a traffic-handler from 'way back in the 20's, this troubled me and I determined to do something about it. I talked to Doc Hayes and found that he agreed with me. So did Joe Moskey. Al Hill did not. He was wedded to the trunk lines and no amount of persuasion would sway him. So, although at this time I was still handling training aids as my principal function at headquarters, I started working on a plan to revolutionize amateur radio traffic handling, put it on a systematic basis at the national level with ARRL taking the lead. It was a daunting project, done mostly on my own time with no help from anybody. When I had the finished tentative plan drawn up I showed it to Moskey and Hayes and they agreed to back me up, so I presented it to our boss, Ed Handy.

Ed, always the conservative but a confirmed traffic-handler himself, was aware of the problem but unwilling to rush into my proposed solution to it. He also was aware of my preference for active operating rather than an all-but-unrelated training aids job, although I was doing well in the latter. It must have given him quite a dose of mixed emotions. No one at ARRL, then or since, has been more devoted to his job than Ed Handy. He was

always at his desk when I came to work at 8 a.m. and when I left at 5 p.m.. I put in extra hours both at the office and at home, working on my NTS plan, and was active on the air as well, but Ed was nearly always there when I was and many times when I was not. Also, like myself, he actively participated in ham radio on-the-air activities from his home, as I did. Amateur radio was his life, even more than it was mine, but at that time he was more steeped in tradition than I was, and the ARRL Trunk Lines were a tradition going back to pre-WWI days.

So he hemmed and hawed, cleared his throat repeatedly, coughed up a storm, pulled his ears, finally agreed to let me seek support from the field for my plan. If sufficient support was forthcoming we would implement on a trial basis for one year. Meanwhile and forever more if interest continued, ARRL would support the trunk lines in traditional fashion. The three-against-one conference (Doc Hayes, Joe Moskey and myself against Ed Handy) thus ended in a partial victory for "our" side, but Ed as the boss had the power of veto. I don't recall that Al Hill entered into it at all; perhaps he had already left. Hill left headquarters in early 1949 to return to Iowa where his family had been staying with relatives, eventually to return to California and become SCM of one of the nine California sections. He was an active traffic handler and superior CW operator. During his approximately 1-1/2 years at ARRL headquarters as W1QMI. He operated a more or less personal station in the penthouse at the League's headquarters office at 38 La Salle Road in West Hartford using the call W1INF, which was the call of the ARRL Headquarters Operators Club, and also an entirely personal station from his room on Selden Hill, the home of many headquarters people throughout the years. Rilla Selden, a spinster lady who owned and operated the home, became a tradition at headquarters because she allowed the erection of antennas on her property and even alterations inside the house to accommodate the personal amateur radio stations of her boarders. Although I never lived there, I was a frequent visitor and became well acquainted with Rilla, who was a gracious, very friendly and hard-working lady. There must have been more than a dozen ARRL headquarters employees who lived there at one time or another, among them By Goodman, W1JPE/W1DX; John Huntoon, W1LVQ/W1RW; Dark Rodimon, W1SZ; Rod Newkirk, W9BRD/W1VMW; John Cann, W3IEM/W1RWS; Don Mix, WITS; and several others I can't at the moment dredge up. Selden Hill became known as the ARRL Boarding House, and Rilla put up with a lot of ham radio shenanigans. ■

**Next: George's story continues with some new names.**



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